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Ripping Pam off

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Cricket lovely cricket

Last chance to join the £10,000 game
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Payments roll in for outside work

Heath heads MPs defying earnings rule

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, ANDREW PIERCE AND PHILIP WEBSTER

A DOZEN Conservatives and two Labour MPs last night laid themselves open to official complaints by refusing to reveal details of how much they earn from their activities outside Parliament.

The former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath and three former ministers — David Mellor, Norman Lamont and Kenneth Baker — were among those who angered colleagues by declining to conform with new rules requiring them to divulge outside earnings that result from their membership of Parliament.

The register of members' interests nevertheless discloses that Conservative MPs collect more than £2 million a year from consultancies and other work, while Labour MPs earn about £600,000 — most of it in contributions towards office expenses from trade unions and other organisations.

Twenty MPs revealed that they at least doubled their parliamentary salary of £34,000 by outside work.

Labour's former deputy leader Roy Hattersley declared the highest supplementary income — nearly £10,000 from his work as a freelance journalist — although some of the Conservatives who did not give details are thought to have earned more.

The top Conservative earner to declare was the former employment minister Patrick Nicholls, whose entry suggested earnings of up to £76,000. However, he said last night that the actual figure had been £54,000. The discrepancy was, he said, the result of the rule that says each sum should be declared in bands of £5,000.

The rules were introduced on the recommendation of Lord Nolan at the end of his inquiry into standards in public life after a series of "sleaze" allegations, culminating in the cash-for-questions scandal. Those who fail to disclose their outside earnings may be reported to the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Sir Gordon



Baker: one of four former ministers not conforming

Downey. He said last night that he expected a significant increase in the number of complaints. It is understood that many MPs consulted him about what should go in the register, but he says in its introduction that there had been inconsistencies in the way MPs had responded and that some had had difficulty interpreting the rules.

Labour is to press Sir Gordon to take action against those who failed to declare — including its own Tony Banks and John Gilbert — and some Conservative backbenchers last night voiced deep irritation with some of their colleagues. One said: "The fat cats who command the big fees have kept quiet. The rest of us have come clean and shown ourselves up." And another said: "The bigger they are, the more likely they are to get away with it."

Downing Street said last night that the Prime Minister wanted to see the highest standards in public life, but added that any concerns over the entries were a matter for Sir Gordon.

Sir Edward Heath, who declined to go along with earlier rules calling on MPs to give details of their Lloyd's membership, declared unspecified earnings from "writing books and press articles, lecturing, making television and radio broadcasts" on behalf of the Dumps Gap

Company — an unlimited private company of which he is chairman.

Last year, in the final pre-Nolan register, he listed six types of paid employment, including being an adviser to the China Ocean Shipping Company and development adviser to Kleinwort Benson China Management.

Mr Mellor's lengthy submission declares ten consultancies, including work for British Aerospace, shipbuilders Vosper Thornycroft and accountants Ernst & Young. But he states: "It is not now, and never has been a contractual duty, implied or otherwise, that my services are provided in my capacity as an MP. The existence of these contracts is not dependent in any way upon my being an MP, nor does the duration of these contracts bear any relationship to any parliamentary timetable."

He also stated that all his overseas visits during the period covered by the register were in relation to his business interests and did not arise from his membership of the Commons. The sole exception was a four-day trip to Bahrain in February last year as a guest of the Bahrain Government. He did, however, declare fees from journalism, television and radio appearances, and from lecturing and public speaking. These included a contract to appear on LWT's *Cross Talk* programme, for which he received less than £5,000 a year.

Mr Hattersley wished that other MPs had been as open as he had: "I took advice from Sir Gordon about what conformed to the spirit as well as the letter of the House of Commons's decision on members' interests," he said. "He advised me I should declare my earnings on two of my contracts. That I did. I very much regret that other members did not follow the same course."

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Anthony Williams describes his picture of the Queen as "an honest portrait and a good likeness"

Artist defends his careworn Queen

By ALAN HAMILTON AND DALYA ALBERGE

THE latest artist to paint the Queen insisted yesterday that he had produced an honest portrait — despite making her look as though she had reached her seventy years the hard way.

Anthony Williams, 31, won his £15,000 commission from the Royal Society of Portrait Painters after being judged the best young portraitist of 1995. His work, which goes on view at the Mail Galleries in London today, is the result of six sittings, during which he felt obliged to complain to the Queen's private secretary that his subject would not sit still.

The 4ft by 3ft canvas shows the Queen's face and hands as

wrinkled, puffy, rubbery and distinctly elderly, whereas recent photographs of her birthday celebrations suggested that she was wearing her years with grace and relaxation. The artist, however, is unrepentant.

"I believe this is an honest portrait and a good likeness. It was hard to come up with a fresh approach to such a familiar face, but I have not deviated from the known image. I was not trying to go out of my way to shock, but I was trying to find something deeper. I was not trying to make any political statement at all; this is a pure portrait," Mr Williams said.

Other artists last night supported him. Daphne Todd, president of the Royal Society

of Portrait Painters, described the picture as "absolutely tremendous." "It is one of the best portraits that have ever been painted of the Queen. She doesn't look at all dreadful."

"You've got to give the painting time because it is made up of hundreds and hundreds of minute observations. At first sight, you are aware of the wrinkles and the size of the hands, larger than life-size. But when you stand in front of it, humanity and dignity comes over. There is spirit in this portrait, an indomitable spirit."

Ms Todd acknowledged that the painting "might well be controversial" in details such as a snagged fingernail and small scratches in the flesh, and she likened a small

wound from the Queen's diamond bracelet to the mark of stockings in one of Rembrandt's nude women. "Every little indentation and scratch you get in life he has recorded. It is slightly terrifying."

The Royal Academician Leonard Rosoman said: "The

Continued on page 2, col 5

Dorrell accused of betrayal over care for elderly

By JILL SHERMAN AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

STEPHEN DORRELL last night outlined long-awaited plans to prevent pensioners having to sell their homes to pay for the costs of residential care. The Government was immediately accused by the opposition parties of "betraying the elderly."

The Health Secretary announced three different options to encourage people to take out insurance policies against the risk of needing expensive care in residential or nursing homes.

Insisting that the thrifty should be rewarded for saving up for their care, Mr Dorrell said the changes — which would come into effect in 1997 — would be included in the Queen's Speech this autumn.

People will be able to choose between insuring their assets, buying an annuity to provide an income until death, or having flexible pensions which pay more money in later years when they might need help.

The Government will reward those who buy such policies by increasing the amount of capital they can own without having to use it to pay for their care.

But the plans came under a barrage of attack from Opposition parties and charities who insisted that the insurance premiums would be prohibitively expensive for those most at risk of losing their homes.

Harriet Harman, Shadow Health Secretary, pointed out that a pensioner couple would have to pay a minimum of £10,000 in premiums to meet their care costs.

Accusing the Government of election bribery, Ms Harman said: "This is a

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Double life term

Steven Heaney, 36, a factory worker from Eastham, Wirral, who lured two young boys to their deaths during a summer afternoon's fishing trip, was given a double life sentence. Page 3

Electricity bid

Midlands Electricity, barred from being taken over by PowerGen two weeks ago, received a joint bid from two American utilities. Page 25

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The Times on the Internet
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Yard issue photo of prime suspect in gun rape hunt

By STEPHEN FARRELL AND STEWART TENDLER

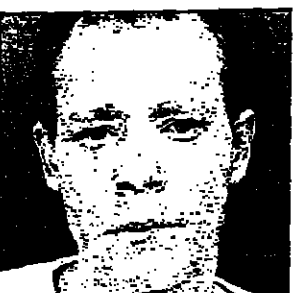
DETECTIVES hunting a rapist and armed robber yesterday named their top suspect.

Scotland Yard officers also issued a photograph of Rodney Michael Smith, 30, to protect the public. Police are worried that Mr Smith, from Grays, Essex, could have a death wish and may seek a confrontation.

After the suicide of a close friend in 1994, he allegedly said: "I'll be in heaven with him soon." The friend shot himself while under police siege.

The man police are hunting appears to use the M25 to move from one attack to another and always produces a handgun. So far he has stolen cash and jewellery worth about £20,000. The attacks began on April 4 when a 32-year-old croupier was abducted in a Mayfair car park, forced to draw money from two cashpoints, before being raped and dumped with her Jaguar car. Other attacks were at:

- Hornchurch, Essex, where a car was stolen on April 6.
- A West End hotel on April 15. A Finnish woman was forced to strip and sexually assaulted. Her jewellery was stolen.
- Ilford, Essex, on April 17 where a woman, 32, was attacked, her Toyota car and jewellery stolen.
- Henley, Oxfordshire on April 18 a woman was hit in the face and her jewellery stolen. She was dumped with her Mercedes in a lay-by.
- In the last attack, on April 23, a woman in Cheshunt,

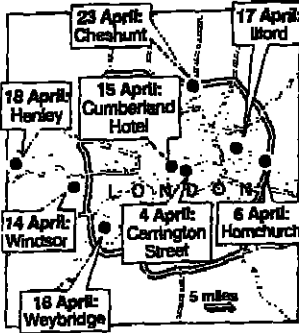


Smith: 'death wish'

Hertfordshire was robbed at her home of jewellery. Police also believe two other attacks could be linked.

Mr Smith, 30, twice divorced, was last seen on May 1 driving a Toyota MR2 sports car, registration number J478 NUE, in Brighton.

As the manhunt got under way yesterday his family described his troubled background. They said he grew up biter at his mother for walking out on him when he was six months old. But his step-mother Drusilla, 53, said she had no sympathy for him.



Kremlin divided in spy row

By RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW AND MICHAEL BINYON

A WIDENING rift emerged within the Russian Government yesterday about how to proceed in the spying dispute with Britain. Hawkish security chiefs demanded mass expulsions from the British Embassy, but Russian diplomats sought a compromise with London.

In a day of contradictory signals from Moscow, the Federal Security Service said that a list of nine British diplomats involved in an espionage network had been drawn up and that they would be sent home. Negotiations were still under way last night between London and Moscow to limit the damage arising from the murky row as Malcolm Rifkind assessed the latest report from the British Ambassador to Moscow. The Foreign Office stuck to a bland formula, insisting that all Russian allegations were unfounded and



"He can't be British, comrade, he can read"

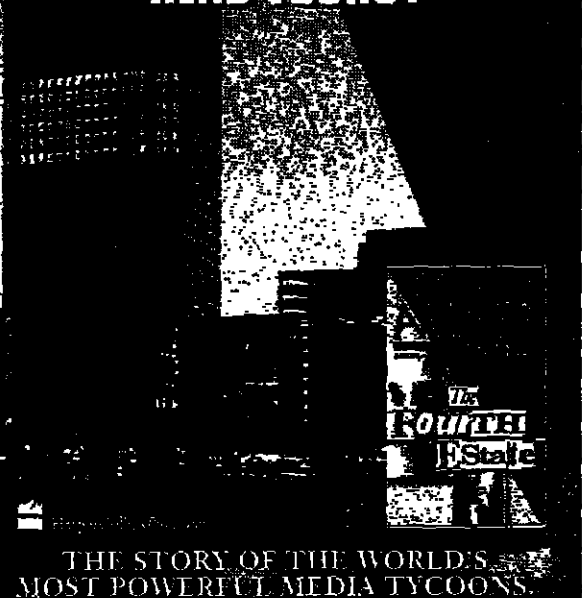
expressing the hope that the threat of expulsions would be withdrawn. Details of the talks between Sir Andrew Wood, the British Ambassador, and Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, are unlikely to be made public.

The expulsion list was drawn up on evidence gathered by counter-intelligence agents during the interrogation last month of a Russian citizen who admitted being a British spy and named his contacts in the embassy.

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THE FOURTH ESTATE BY JEFFREY ARCHER.

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Commons touch on voluntary redundancy

DUE to a slip of the tongue at Prime Minister's Questions, Paddy Ashdown attacked Serbia yesterday when he meant to attack Croatia. Nobody noticed.

Did the PM realise, he asked, that the biggest threat to peace in the Balkans now came from the ambitions of "a Greater Serbia" rather than those fighting for a greater Croatia? Here the Liberal Democrat Leader stopped to correct himself. It was those fighting for a greater Croatia, not a Greater Serbia, who were the threat, he explained.

I looked down. Miss Boothroyd was staring into the middle distance. Mr Major fiddling with his notes and Tony Blair chatting with his

mates. MPs were paying no attention at all. Greater Croatia, Greater Serbia... would anybody have noticed if Ashdown had discerned the Balkan threat coming from Greater Manchester? It must tempt him to try speaking utter gobbledegook or lapsing into iambic pentameters, just to see whether MPs, the Press, or anyone else, wakes up.

Perhaps Spencer Batiste (C. Elmet) was right: MPs have sadly diluted their impact. Under the Ten Minute Rule at 5.00pm he introduced a Bill to reduce the membership of the Commons from its planned 659 (after the next election) to 500. If there were fewer MPs, explained an earnest Mr Batiste, the world might take



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

more notice of them. Or "us". It was notable that throughout his speech the rump of 500 to which Batiste planned to reduce the Commons was referred to as "us".

His case was coolly and cogently made out. MPs had urged industry to improve its productivity, Batiste said. They had slimmed the Civil Service, the Health Service, and every other service. They urged organisations to be leaner and fitter.

Every organisation but their own. So far. But now was the

time, Mr Batiste concluded, for the ultimate sacrifice; now the time had finally come for MPs to "lead by example".

"Now is the time..." we leapt a little ahead of Mr Batiste's logic, anticipating its conclusion — "for 150 colleagues and I to stand down from the parliamentary process and allow the constituency map to be redrawn with fewer and larger constituencies".

But no, 150 MPs would indeed have to go, but this was to make "us" more effective in

the next Parliament. That modest "and I" was never volunteered. After Batiste sat down, John Butcher (C. Coventry SW) rose to do the decent thing. Butcher's proposal was for an altogether more dramatic cull, reducing the Commons to some 300 members — but not including Mr Butcher. He was to stand down at the next election he explained.

In your sketchwriter's view, John Butcher's quiet thoughtfulness and sorrowful sense of the impotence of the backbench MP — his personal willingness to stand aside — should disqualify him from the cull.

Such wisdom is rare. He must stay. It's the ones who want to stay who should go, or be "processed," as the new lingo has it.

The Junior Agriculture minister Tony Baldry, asked how many cattle were awaiting the abattoir, and the renderers, told MPs that some 120,000 cows were now in line "for processing".

What revisions to literature does this new style of minister-speak suggest? "Thou shalt not process?" As Othello says to Desdemona's corpse: "I kissed thee ere I processed thee." A lawyer, himself, Mr Batiste will know Shakespeare's line: "Let's process all the lawyers."

And not just the lawyers. "I'm seeing the renderers tomorrow," Mr Baldry told MPs. Good.

Mr Baldry told MPs. Good.

Mr Baldry told MPs. Good.

Mr Baldry told MPs. Good.

Peers vote to close cash for questions libel law loophole

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE House of Lords passed an amendment last night that will give MPs and peers extensive new rights to sue newspapers over reports of their parliamentary activities.

Senior judges and peers from all sides voted by 157 to 57 to overturn part of the 300-year-old Bill of Rights which prevents MPs from taking action if they believe their reputations have been defamed in connection with their parliamentary work.

The new measures have been added to the Defamation Bill after a court ruling preventing Neil Hamilton, Tory MP for Tatton, and the lobbying company, Ian Greer Associates, from suing *The Guardian* newspaper.

Mr Hamilton's attempt to sue the newspaper over a "cash for questions" allegation was stayed by the courts after the newspaper successfully pleaded that the privileges conferred on MPs by Article Nine of the Bill of Rights, 1689,



Lord Lester: predicted conflict with the courts

meant that a court could not inquire, even at the request of an MP, into anything he had said or done in Parliament.

The newspaper argued that this rendered it impossible to mount a full defence of justification since it could not cross-examine Mr Hamilton.

If the amendment is passed in the Commons, it will allow members to waive their im-

munity and sue for libel, but absolute privilege will still protect MPs from being sued over what they have said about anyone or what they have done in Parliament.

The amendment will now go to the Commons where Tory MPs will be given a free vote on the issue.

Lord Simon of Glaisdale, a former Appeal Court judge, who voted against the amendment, said: "It is nearly impossible to exaggerate the constitutional importance of the changes to parliamentary privilege."

Lord Hoffmann, a Lord of the Appeal, tabled the amendment which was debated last night during the third reading of the Bill. After a heated debate, which was watched from the gallery by Mr Hamilton, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, made it clear that he also supported the change. The Lord Chancellor's office said that if the new measures were passed in the Commons, Mr Hamilton could restart his action.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill, a Liberal Democrat peer opposed the amendment. "This amendment is fatally flawed and would infringe fundamental principles of our unwritten constitution," he said. "It would operate arbitrarily and it would extend parliamentary privilege in a manner that would unnecessarily interfere with free speech."

Lord Lester said the change would mean Parliament had to surrender its collective privilege to any individual member. It would also create new conflicts between Parliament and the courts if lawyers were allowed to suggest that a member was lying in the House. "It would be most unfortunate if this amend-



Neil Hamilton intends to pursue his action if MPs support the amendment to the Defamation Bill

ment were pursued for political purposes to support Mr Neil Hamilton's particular interests in his litigation," he said.

He added that Mr Hamilton should have appealed to the higher courts, where he would have had "reasonable prospects of success".

Mr Hamilton was forced to resign as Corporate Affairs Minister after *The Guardian* claimed that he accepted payments from Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, for asking questions on behalf of Harrods. They also stated that he had failed to declare a six-day visit to the Ritz Hotel in Paris, owned by Mr Al Fayed.

Mr Hamilton wrote to peers

before the vote setting out his position, stating that he had been denied basic justice. Many of his friends turned out to support his claim, including Baroness Thatcher and Lord Parkinson.

Last night Mr Hamilton was jubilant. "It was a wonderful debate and there were many heavyweights against me, but I was caught up in an anomaly. The Bill of Rights is there to protect citizens and give them a fair hearing, which I am being denied."

"I can't presume on the Commons passing this amendment... but if this amendment is passed newspapers will have to be far more careful what they say."

Jobs before monetary union, says Brown

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN said yesterday that a Europe-wide assault on unemployment was a key pre-requisite for a successful single currency.

The Shadow Chancellor used a speech to the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Bonn to dispel suggestions that a Labour government would inevitably sign up to monetary union, while underlining his party's strong pro-European credentials and reaffirming its commitment to a "co-operative, integrated and dynamic European Union".

He also demanded full participation by Britain in the discussions leading up to monetary union, saying that Britain "cannot afford forever a government attitude which sees us hovering half in and half out".

Mr Brown's insistence that unemployment must be tackled first by the EU was clearly intended to make it clear that Labour would be no softer than the Tories when it came to the crucial decision of whether Britain should join.

Mr Brown said: "You cannot build a monetary union on doing nothing about 20 million unemployed. It is the threat of unemployment which is responsible for the widespread jobs insecurity which is depressing confidence and growth in Britain and across Europe."

Mr Brown laid stress on the "substantial" potential benefits of a monetary union, particularly stability, lower interest rates and reduced currency speculation. He said: "Britain can no longer afford to stand and carp from the sidelines. In trade, and in macroeconomic management, isolationism is not an option. We put our future in jeopardy by being on the outside."

European defence strategy advanced

Europe's attempt to forge its own defence strategy moved forward yesterday with proposals that will enable European countries to tackle peacekeeping operations using Nato equipment.

Ministers from the Western European Union, meeting in Birmingham, focused on the need to strengthen the WEU, long the distant cousin of Nato. Britain, which holds the WEU presidency, is campaigning to develop it as the European pillar of the alliance but opposes attempts to integrate it into the European Union. Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said Bonn wanted a merger between the WEU and EU, with the WEU receiving instructions from the Council of Ministers. But Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said: "We are very happy for a closer relationship to develop between the EU and the WEU. We don't want to see it being taken over by the EU."

Fake BSE farmer fined

A farmer has been fined £30,000 for falsifying documents to suggest that cattle he sold had come from farms which had never had any cases of "mad cow" disease. David Dunster, 65, of Dartington, Devon, admitted five charges of applying false trade descriptions to 44 cattle at Plymouth Crown Court. He said they had been reared on BSE-free farms but they were traced to herds on other farms which had suffered BSE outbreaks in the previous six years. He was also ordered to pay £8,500 costs.

Killer jailed for life

A man was jailed for life for setting alight his lodgings and killing his landlady and her two young children. A medical report stated that Darren Carr was suffering from a psychopathic personality disorder when he splashed petrol about the house in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, and ignited it. Carr, 25, admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility at Birmingham Crown Court. Carr moved into the house after answering an advertisement seeking a rent-free lodger who would babysit.

Burglars kill woman, 94

A woman of 94 is believed to have been suffocated in her bed by burglars who entered her home through an open window. It was the fifth burglary in two years at the home of Dorothy Wood in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. Miss Wood, a former midwife and school nurse, was deaf and partially blind. She had lived alone for many years and was found dead by neighbours. Detective Superintendent Gary Haigh said: "Miss Wood was an independent lady living her life with dignity."

Hell's Angel ordered out

A former Hell's Angel was yesterday ordered out of the theatre shed where he has been squatting for the past 18 months. John Warlock, 53, was given 14 days to leave the hut in the grounds of York Theatre Royal. After the hearing at York County Court, Mr Warlock said: "I am not moving. I might have a sit-in or something instead." Theatre staff allowed him to move in to the lean-to because he was living rough on the streets in the winter. The theatre now wants the shed to store empty crates from the bar.

'Real' party launched

The "Real Tory Party" was launched last night to woo disenchanted Conservatives who cannot face voting for Labour but have had enough of John Major. The venture has been organised by 30 disaffected former Conservative councillors and supporters in Salisbury, Wiltshire. Founder members want to return to "the old values of the family, decency and the community". They will stand against Tory candidates whom they believe have cheated on the "Tory ethic".

Gay parents case

Social workers at Inverclyde council have refused to intervene in the case of a lesbian couple who were criticised by the Church of Scotland for bringing up a child on a "timeshare" with two gay men. Ruth Henry, the child's natural mother by artificial insemination, has defended the pact which means that two-year-old Jacob spends weekdays with her and her partner at their home in Gourrock, Strathclyde, and weekends with his father and partner who live near by.

Clue on missing girls

Two girls who ran away from boarding school told a member of the public they were planning to hitch-hike to Fort William, police said yesterday. Officers throughout Scotland were following up reported sightings of Aileen McGhie and Kirsty Ann Boyd, both 15, who disappeared eight days ago from Lomond School, Helensburgh, near Dumbarton. Inspector Brian Lennox said: "We are still hoping the girls will get in touch. They must know people are looking for them."

Plan for eco-village

Environmental protesters applied for planning permission for a "sustainable, low-impact eco-village" on a wasteland site in Wandsworth, south London, owned by Guinness. The 500-strong group of "land campaigners" are already constructing a tented community on the site in protest at the amount of land lying derelict in the capital. A spokesman for Wandsworth Council said: "Without the landowner's permission, an application seems pointless."

Model, 12, put 'on hold'

The parents of a 12-year-old girl described as the next supermodel have decided to defer her career. MPs and health experts had criticised the decision to launch Rachel Kirkby on the international fashion scene after she was signed by the model agency Select. In a statement, Select and James and Gaye Kirkby said: "In the best interests of Rachel Kirkby, Select and Mr and Mrs Kirkby have decided to put Rachel's modelling career on hold."

Elderly 'betrayed'

Continued from page 1
betrayal. No one told today's elderly that their care was to be their responsibility. They were promised care from the cradle to the grave and that promise is now broken.

The Government's proposals, outlined in a consultation paper yesterday, follow growing concern that people are being forced to pay for their homes to pay for the high cost of long-term care in residential or nursing homes.

But critics immediately claimed that the plans would benefit the well-off and fail to resolve the basic problem of funding long-term care.

Mr Dorrell said that roughly one in five people who reached retirement would need long-term residential care, costing up to £20,000 a year. At present people have to contribute to their care costs if they have savings of over £10,000, and have to pay the full costs if their assets are over £16,000.

Mr Dorrell said the individual rather than the state should take principal respon-

sibility. "We shall continue to provide a safety net. In addition, we shall ensure a framework is in place to encourage people to provide for themselves and protect the interests of those who do," he said.

The Association of British Insurers and Bupa, Britain's biggest private health providers, were optimistic.

"A move like this is bound to open up the market. It should ensure a wider range of products and premiums will probably be able to come down as more customers show interest and competition increases," a spokesman for the association said.

But the plan was criticised by charities representing the elderly.

Mervyn Kohler, head of public affairs for Help the Aged, said: "How are the large numbers of pensioners who live on a very low income but do not receive means-tested benefits going to find the money to pay for such a scheme? This is a short-term solution to a long-term problem."

Artist defends his careworn Queen

Continued from page 1

first thing that strikes one is the extraordinary drawing in the painting. It's very much a painting of an oldish person. I suppose that certain people won't like that. But in the drawing of the hands and face, it's quite remarkable. It has some of the quality of a Florentine drawing in it. In some ways, it is very like her."

The painting was not executed without difficulty. "My first sittings were in the Yellow Room at the front of Buckingham Palace; the later ones were moved to a room at the back, where the light was

completely different," Mr Williams said.

The artist is relatively new to portraits, having previously concentrated on still life and landscapes. He won the commission on the basis of a painting of Dr Michael Adie, the retired Bishop of Guildford; his only previous subject of note had been Lady Moore, wife of a former private secretary to the Queen.

All portraits of the Queen tend to be judged against Annigoni's heroic 1955 portrait, which is destined to become the Holbein of the reign. Even that ruffled the

art establishment, and no later portrait of the monarch has won universal acclaim.

Looking at a photograph of the image, Richard Cork, art critic of *The Times*, said: "Nobody could accuse this dismal image of blandness or flattery, the besetting sins of modern Royal portraiture. Pinched and glum, the ageing Queen stares towards a cold light. She seems to have been stripped of all her monarchical trappings, and frowns as she contemplates the future. This is the portrait of a woman permanently scarred by her annus

horribilis. She appears to inhabit some glacial region, frozen by the chill of public hostility towards the royal family as a whole.

"The glamour of Annigoni's portrait of the youthful Elizabeth is utterly removed from this painting. She has become a Winter Queen, with hands raw and chapped enough to have suffered from arctic exposure. No comfort can be drawn from the portrait, and to that extent it can be commended for its toughness. But it fails to offer any deeper insight into its subject beyond a general air of depression."

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End of innocence on a summer's afternoon for two young friends who shared a love of angling

Life for loner who lured boys to death at fishing ponds

By KATE ALDERSON

A LONER who enticed two young boys to their deaths during a summer afternoon's fishing trip was given a double life sentence yesterday. Steven Heaney strangled and stabbed his victims, then sat at home watching a murder mystery on television as police searched for the two young friends.

Heaney, 36, a factory worker from Eastham, Wirral, pleaded guilty at Liverpool Crown Court to murdering Paul Barker, 13, and Robert Gee, 12, at fishing ponds just a mile from their homes. The bodies of the two classmates were found 200 yards apart on July 30 last year, the day after the murders. They lay next to their prized mountain bikes and fishing equipment.

The killer, balding and with a pencil-thin moustache, looked gaunt and hunched as he held on to a courtroom rail with both hands during sentencing. Mr Justice Ognall told him: "You put a brutal end to two innocent young lives. The medical reports indicate that you are fully responsible for what you did. In the light of your actions that day and indeed days before and all the surrounding circumstances, there must be a profound anxiety as to the continuing risk you present if consideration is given to your release from custody."

During the 27-minute hearing the court was told by Richard Henriques, QC, for the prosecution, that Paul and Robert had set off for a fishing trip to Carpies pond, Eastham, at about 1pm. Four other boys were also at the pond, and there was not enough room for Paul and Robert. Heaney directed the two to a second pond. Within half an hour, he followed.

Heaney managed to separate the school friends by suggesting Paul should come to look at the fourth in a series of ponds, while Robert remained 250 metres away at the second pond. Mr Henriques said: "At pond number four, it



Paul Barker



Robert Gee

was beyond question that the defendant strangled Paul Barker with a wire ligature that several times encircled his neck and was pulled tight from behind."

Heaney then returned to Robert, took him to the third of the ponds, and killed him there. In addition, the boys' trousers had been pulled down and his T-shirt removed before he was stabbed.

When the boys' parents became concerned that their sons had not returned home by 6.30pm, they contacted police. As officers searched for them, Heaney was sitting at home with his parents watching the detective series, *Colombo*. Robert's body was found at 5.30 the next morning by police. At 12.45pm, Paul's

body was discovered.

When Heaney was interviewed the next day, police became suspicious and cautioned him. He did not seek to deny responsibility for the deaths. He was never able to give detailed accounts of how he caused their deaths or a reason for his actions.

David Steer, QC, for the defence, said Heaney previously had an unblemished character and did not wish to prolong the suffering of the families. He said Heaney's pleas of guilty were consistent with his feelings of remorse.

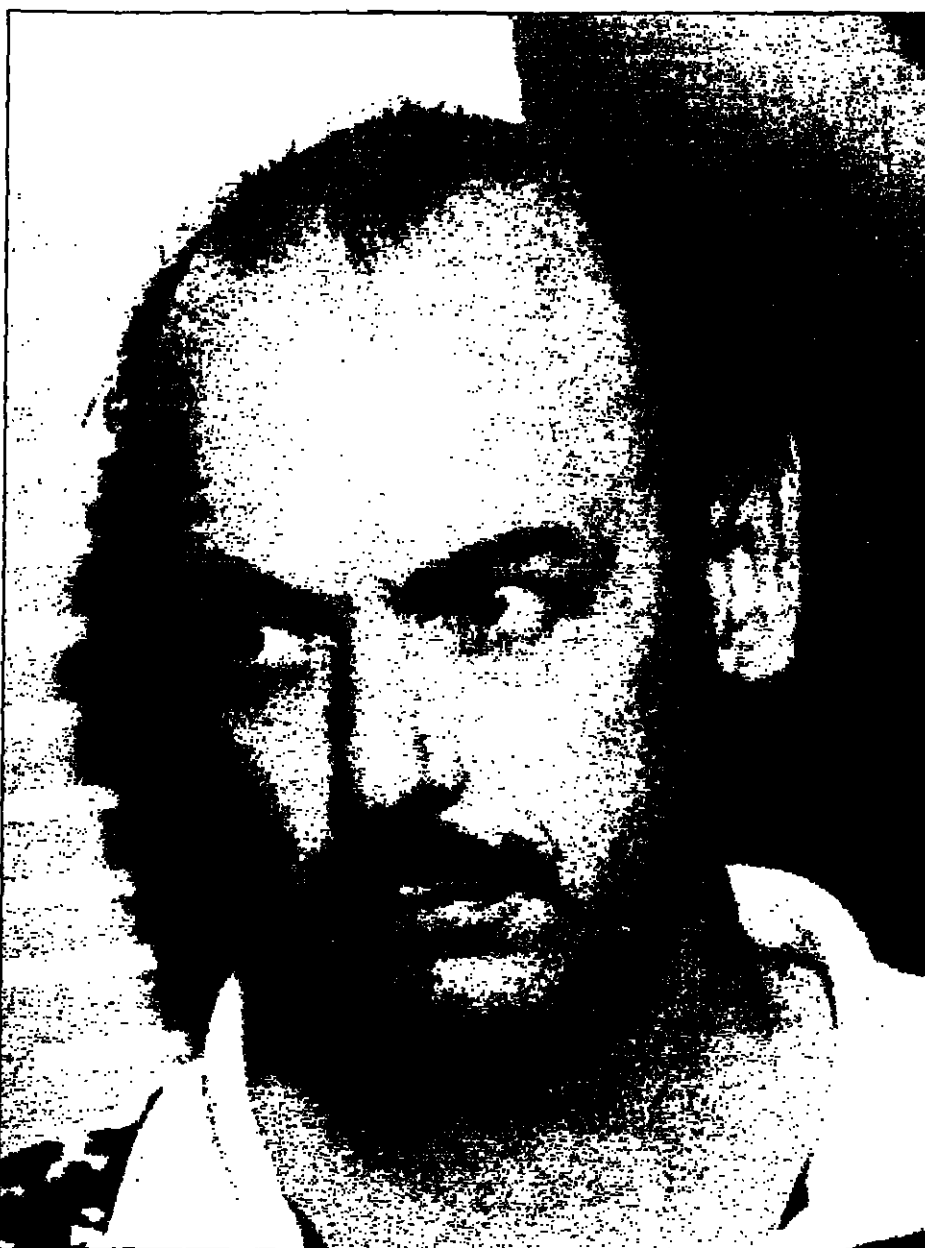
The parents of the boys were not in court yesterday, but asked for a transcript of the proceedings, which the judge said he would "unhesitatingly" make available to them. Paul's parents, Richard and Pat, were active members of their tight-knit community and the whole Barker family were very close.

Paul was a member of the Boys' Brigade unit at St David's United Reformed Church, which his father ran. His grandmother, Anne, often helped out.

The 12-year-old boy had a sharing nature and an affectionate relationship with his 11-year-old sister, Hannah. He was especially devoted to fishing, which became his hobby when he was eight. His grandfather, William, 78, took him on his first fishing trip.

Robbie, an only child, was a fellow pupil at St David's High School. He was smaller than Paul and enjoyed sport, fishing and outdoor activities. He was a fanatical football fan who loved going to watch Liverpool or Tranmere Rovers and enjoyed going abroad on holiday with his parents, Lenny and Kathy.

Tranmere players John Aldridge, now the club manager, and Shaun Garnett attended the boys' joint funeral last August. The soccer anthem *You'll Never Walk Alone* was played at the service at St David's United Reformed Church, in Eastham, and a minute's silence was observed before a Tranmere game.



Steven Heaney, who lived with his parents and was said to be terrified of girls

'Heaney the Weeny' lived for Army cadets

By KATE ALDERSON

STEVEN HEANEY had no adult friends. He lived with his elderly parents and sought out the company of boys and young men.

His passion in life was the Army Cadet Force, which he joined in 1985. He had no regular Army experience but because of his enthusiasm rose quickly to the rank of staff sergeant and worked as an instructor responsible for training 30 teenage boys attached to the 7th Royal Corps of Transport in Birkenhead.

He dedicated himself to the Cadets and spent his time running the unit, which was meant to open on only two evenings a week. He would open up at least four times a week, sometimes when there were no youngsters there. He boasted about his shooting skills

to cadets and falsely claimed he was the youngest ever corporal in the Army and a military policeman discharged on medical grounds. Former Sergeant Major John Cowley, 51, who ran another Army attachment near by, became suspicious of his colleague, describing him as a "time-bomb" waiting to explode.

"We all knew there was something creepy about him," he said. "He seemed a bit too interested in the children. He never showed any interest in women and he refused to have girls in his unit. I made an official complaint in 1988 but apparently nothing was done about it."

Mr Cowley discovered Heaney was opening up his unit's hut every day and that teenagers were turning up on a daily basis to play darts and pool. Heaney claimed the boys would rather

be with him than at school. "I told him it was insane," Mr Cowley said. "Instructors are not supposed to fraternise with boys unaccompanied because it could leave them open to all sorts of allegations."

He also took cadets away on unofficial camping trips without informing his superiors. Mr Cowley said: "He once took my son away with him on an official ACF trip to Belgium. When he came back my lad said he always felt uncomfortable with Heaney."

"He said Heaney would play rough and tumble with the boys but it always went too far. He would pin the lads down in a manner that went beyond the playful and it scared my lad."

Rumours that Heaney was homosexual were rife in the ACF. "Heaney was always very effeminate and seemed terrified of girls," Mr Cowley

said. "He never had a girlfriend but you could understand that because he was so creepy. He scared women and I think he knew that. He was only really comfortable around young boys."

Mr Cowley said he lied about his rank and claimed to be an officer to people who did not know him. He wore his uniform as often as possible and was the only Army member who went home after an exercise still wearing black face camouflage. "He would buy Army equipment and knives."

Steve Brown, 25, a former cadet, remembered Heaney as a man who lived for the ACF. "It seemed like his whole life. We all thought he was a baby and it was almost as if he was younger than us. We called him Heaney the Weeny."

He left the ACF in 1990 after an apparent dispute over missing money.



Louise McSherry: she was approached at Carpies pond

Killer asked girl to take off her top

By ADRIAN LEE

A SCHOOLGIRL described how she was confronted by Steven Heaney five days before he murdered Robert Gee and Paul Barker at the same spot. Louise McSherry, 15, said she was terrified when he produced a nine-inch fishing knife and tried to lure her into some bushes.

"I can't help thinking it could have been me," said Louise, who was fishing alone at the pond, known as Carpies pond, in Eastham, Wirral. "He told me his name was Steve and he was in the Army and was a martial arts expert. He seemed very nervous. He kept pacing behind me and I felt frightened but I tried not to show it."

Then Heaney pulled out the knife and some plastic

binding. "My rod was dipping into the water and he said the knife would help support it. I began packing my things up slowly."

"He said I had a very fit body and asked if I had a suntan. He suggested I take my top off so I would catch the sun. He asked me a few times. Heaney then tried to entice her into the bushes behind the pool. "He said he could hear a baby duck and he was going to have a look. He asked if I was going with him. I picked up my gear and as we walked I turned off towards my house."

The incident was not reported to police. Louise's mother, Susan, said: "When Robbie and Paul were killed I kept thinking how it could easily have been my daughter."

Olympic athletes lose legal rights

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE Olympic rowing champions Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent yesterday became the first members of the British team to sign an agreement that will force athletes to forfeit their legal rights or be barred from competing in the Atlanta Games.

Athletes, their coaches and agents reacted furiously to the move by the International Olympic Committee that obliges competitors to accept the ruling of the independent Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Vincent Modahl, the husband of Diane, who was cleared of a doping offence in March after a 19-month legal battle, said: "If Diane had signed this before the 1994 Commonwealth Games she would have been found guilty by the court in Canada and would have had no chance of challenging the verdict later."

John Biscourt, a leading agent, said: "This will cause a huge rumpus. It is draconian." A clause in the team members' agreement of the

British Olympic Association states that a competitor has to "submit the dispute for exclusive and final determination" to CAS. The court was set up by the IOC, although it prides itself on its independence. Its members include 12 international lawyers.

In the IOC entry form for Atlanta, the competitor has to agree not to "institute any claim, arbitration or litigation, or seek any other form of relief in any other court or tribunal".

Bruce Mellstrom, the BOA lawyer, said that the agreement was operative only for the Games but British competitors were being warned that it was legally binding. "It is not the intention to take away the civil rights of athletes. The CAS is a quick, easy, non-expensive way to settle disputes."

Asked about the rights of individuals, he said: "People have the choice of whether they want to accept them and compete in the Games — or not."

Oyston 'victim of conspiracy'

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE tycoon Owen Oyston yesterday told the court where he is being tried on rape charges that he had been the victim of a conspiracy by two government ministers.

The millionaire chairman of Blackpool Football Club said Lord Blaker, formerly the Blackpool South MP Peter Blaker, and the ex-ports minister Robert Atkins, MP for South Ribble, had mounted the conspiracy against him and members of the Labour Party in the North West.

Mr Oyston, 62, a life-long Labour supporter, told Liverpool Crown Court that he had 48 hours of tape-recorded conversations between Lord Blaker, Mr Atkins, a Blackpool businessman called William Harrison, a man named Michael Murrin "and a whole range of other senior people in the Tory party".

"The tapes showed that Lord Blaker, William Harrison and Robert Atkins — two ministers of the Government — were running a conspiracy

against me and members of the North West Labour Party," he said. Mr Oyston said he had failed to have a civil action against those responsible because of a lawyer's mistake, but was pursuing his case through the European Court of Human Rights.

Earlier a detective had told the court, where Mr Oyston denies raping two teenagers, that in February last year the tycoon had told him he believed his arrest was linked to the conspiracy. Detective Constable Martin Hughes said Mr Oyston had told him his arrest at his home, Cloughton Hall, near Lancaster, had come only three weeks before his civil case against the two politicians had been due to come before the High Court.

He had alleged that a "very nasty and vicious" campaign had been waged against him for ten to 12 years. As well as the rape charges Mr Oyston denies one charge of indecent assault. The case continues.

Harley Street tenants twitch after order to put up the net curtains

By TIM JONES

TENANTS occupying some of the most expensive and exclusive properties in Britain have been told they must cover their windows with net or lace curtains.

The order, which will cause a flutter of dismay among chic interior designers, applies to the estate of Lord Howard de Walden, one of the country's wealthiest landowners.

His 1,200 properties, thought to be worth about £250 million, are mostly in the West End of London and include addresses in Harley Street and Wimpole Street.

For decades, net curtains have had a bad image, being associated with nosy, interfering neighbours, who betray their presence by twitching them.

In spite of that, the estate

gazette reminds tenants, who include prominent doctors and dentists, that whatever the dictates of fashion they must hang the curtains "to protect the estate's elegant residential character".

The gazette admits some people regard net as old hat but draws the attention of tenants to a clause in their lease which states that windows "must be properly cleaned at least once in every month and at all times be kept fitted with curtains or lace, net or other material approved by the landlord".

It adds: "Up with the net, or lace if you prefer, before someone looks in on you. You have been warned."

Simon Baynham, the estate manager, said the reminder to tenants had been made to



The landowner, Lord Howard de Walden

preserve the character of the elegant Georgian properties, which were originally built as private residences.

"The curtains are required

to maintain the charm of the area and ensure that people do not look in and see things like word processors and other office equipment. The piece in the newsletter was rather lighthearted but it is not a joke. The requirement is there."

Lord Howard de Walden, 83, was away from his Avington Manor estate, near Hungerford, Berkshire, and unavailable for comment. The 9th Baron and former senior steward of the Jockey Club had a stroke just before Christmas and is recuperating in Ireland.

Net curtains, it seems, are increasingly regarded as essential to ensure privacy. A recent issue of *Vogue* reviewed seven different net styles and said: "Since nets are a necessary evil these days, they might as well be chic."

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Boarding schools say tables are unfair

By JOHN O'LEARY

BOARDING schools' examination results are being underestimated by more than 10 per cent in government league tables, putting millions in overseas earnings at risk, a survey claimed yesterday.

Foreign parents seeking a boarding education for their children studied the tables, head teachers said at the Boarding Schools Association conference started in Ambleside in the Lake District. But, they said, rankings based on the performance of 15-year-olds alone were misleading them over many schools' standards.

Independent schools have long complained that age-related tables put them at a disadvantage because they are flexible about the timing of public examinations. Boarding schools have many foreign students, who often enter a year behind their age group. Ministers added a column to performance tables in 1995 for results of the year group, but few state schools sent in the information.



Pupils aged seven at Winton primary in Islington, which was one of the few schools praised in the Ofsted study. At others teachers were accused of failing children

Shepherd orders teachers back to basics on reading

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GILLIAN SHEPHERD yesterday demanded a return to traditional teaching methods after a survey found that 20 per cent of seven year olds in three inner-London boroughs could not read.

The Education and Employment Secretary criticised the way many primary school staff had been trained to educate and announced plans for a league table of teacher training colleges.

Ofsted, the school inspection agency, has so far assessed seven of the 68 colleges and given one, at Lancaster University, the lowest possible grade for the way its students learn to teach English and maths.

Mrs Shepherd yesterday backed Ofsted's report on 45 schools in three London boroughs, which blamed weak teaching and leadership for poor reading.

Teaching unions accused her of overlooking other factors, including social disadvantage and the high number of children who spoke English as a second language. Inspectors acknowledged that many

of the pupils came from poor backgrounds, but said they were "doubly disadvantaged" by weak teaching.

"At the heart of the problem is a commitment to methods and approaches to the teaching of reading that were self-evidently not working when judged by the outcomes of pupils' progress and attainment," the report said. Children were left to "discover" reading or were taught ad hoc when they should have been learning systematically the building blocks of language.

Mrs Shepherd said: "I have little doubt that similar problems exist in other parts of the country and I will do all in my power to put things right." She pledged to strengthen inspectors' powers to assess local education authorities and said they would be allowed to conduct their own tests on pupils as part of special subject assessments.

The boroughs surveyed, Islington, Southwark and Tower Hamlets, gave permission for Ofsted to use a standardised reading test. This showed that just a fifth of

seven year olds had attained the average reading standard for their age; a fifth failed to achieve a score. At the age of 11, two in five pupils were reading at or above average, but two out of five were two years or more behind.

The report said a quarter of schools "did not have books and other materials of sufficient quality and quantity to teach the national curriculum effectively". But Mrs Shepherd said: "We are not dealing here with a problem of resources. We are dealing with teacher skills and methods, leadership and organisation." Inspectors said many of the teachers had blamed inadequate preparation at training college.

Mrs Shepherd dismissed accusations of political bias against Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools. Tower Hamlets council said the report had been rewritten to highlight the negative and called it a "betrayal".

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the profession would resist the plan to allow inspectors to conduct their own tests of pupils.

John Major told the Commons yesterday that he sympathised with parents in "Labour-controlled local authorities, whose record was shown up so sadly in the report by Ofsted".

The Prime Minister taunted Tony Blair for sending his son away from his home borough

of Islington to a grant-maintained school and Harriet Harman for sending her son to a selective school outside Southwark. "The only response the Labour Party has to this is to threaten to give more powers to those very same councils that their front bench won't entrust their own children to."

Doubt was cast on the effect that teaching methods can have on reading attainment by the National Foundation for Education Research, which provided the test used in Ofsted's inquiry. Greg Brooks, a senior research officer, said teaching quality and method made only about 10 per cent difference. He said national reading had been rising for the past five years.

Testing schools, page 17



Shepherd said it was not a problem of resources

Worst pupils came from white homes

By DAVID CHARTER

INSPECTORS were astounded to find some teachers had adopted a technique of listening to several children read different books aloud at the same time in the inner-city schools they assessed.

They reported that when teachers listened to children read one-to-one it was only of limited benefit, but listening to two or more seven-year-olds at once was impossible and little progress was made. Most classes observed held a daily session of quiet reading, but this was often "aimless".

The worst readers of English in the inspectors' own test were white pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and the best performance at both 7 and 11 was by black Africans.

Bangladeshi pupils, who made up nearly a fifth of the survey, could barely read at seven but were almost as fluent as white children by 11. English was the first language of only half the pupils tested. A big weakness was failure

to teach effectively the building blocks of language using the phonics method. Phonics means children learn to read by decoding words using the sounds of their letters. Thus C A T (or kuh a tuh) spells cat, and nothing else. Opponents say the system is boring. At older ages, pupils were not being encouraged to evaluate or respond to their reading.

The inspectors said: "Phonics provides pupils with the knowledge to decode and build words, upon which success in early reading and writing depends, and gives pupils the confidence they need to tackle new texts. Moreover, because phonics is a set of culturally determined conventions it cannot be left to be 'discovered'."

Inspectors acknowledged the areas studied represented "some of the highest levels of disadvantage in the country". In one of the schools, English was the first language of just 2 per cent of pupils.

First inspect your sandwich filling



MEDICAL BRIEFING

A YEAR or two ago, I was intrigued by the behaviour of one of Britain's most eminent physiologists who, at a reception at the Royal Society, opened up sandwiches and inspected and sniffed the fillings before accepting them.

Catching my eye he told me that he had been prescribed monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MOI) a form of antidepressant drug, and had to make certain that the sandwich did not contain any of the list of forbidden foods.

Patients taking MOI antidepressants are not allowed cheese, Bovril, Oxo, or any other meat extracts, nor even spreads made from yeast. The drugs are also incompatible with pickled herrings, bean pods or bananas.

Patients taking those drugs should be careful when they eat in a cheap restaurant, for soya or another flavoured vegetable protein may have been added to the stew or rice to make it go further.

The physiologist may have seemed unmanly to smell his sandwich but it was an important precaution, for any food that is no longer fresh may precipitate a sudden severe rise in blood pressure, which can also be brought about by the long list of outlawed foods. Strokes have occurred when these precautions have not been taken.

The MOI antidepressants are not the only drugs that do not mix well with certain

foods. Milk and other dairy products, combining several preparations, including some antibiotics, and thereby prevent the drugs' absorption.

Recently another curious mismatch has been noted. One of the major groups of calcium channel blocking drugs, which are frequently used in the treatment of high blood pressure, has been found to cause problems in patients who regularly take large quantities of grapefruit or grapefruit juice.

Grapefruit is much richer than other citrus fruits in health-giving flavonoids, the antioxidants that are thought to protect against heart disease and even malignancy.

The metabolism of the grapefruit flavonoids is dependent on the same enzyme which breaks down the calcium channel blocker.

Those who have taken grapefruit before they started on the calcium channel blocking drugs are not at any risk, for their doctor will have fixed their dose with their breakfast habits in mind.

If, however, patients suddenly start taking daily grapefruit juice after they have been having the anti-blood pressure drugs, the blood pressure may fall to a point where they collapse if they stand up too quickly.

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Lottery winner's life in the fast lane, with mum riding shotgun

By BILL FROST

WEALTH beyond the dreams of avarice would not corrupt or change him, Karl Crompton said yesterday as he clutched a cheque for almost £11 million, his share of the National Lottery jackpot.

However, the battered banger he drove until Saturday had already lost the parking place in his heart to a Porsche Carrera 911 and a champagne flute had been substituted for his pint beer glass. The 23-year-old bachelor from Blackpool wore the sort of smile that only the obscenely rich can afford.

Mr Crompton, an assistant manager at a Comet electrical goods store (until he picks up his final pay cheque later this week), thought he would have little difficulty adapting to a life of luxury.

"I'm pretty damn sure I'll have no problem with that at all," he told reporters at a golf club in Hertfordshire where his cheque was presented. Dubbed the "Rollercoaster Romeo"

by the tabloids, Mr Crompton acknowledged that his new bank balance would inevitably enhance his pulling power. "I don't have a girlfriend," he said. "There is one I would like to go out with but I don't think her boyfriend would be keen."

How would Mr Crompton cope with women after one thing — his money? His mother Patricia intervened immediately. "I'll fend them off," she said firmly. "Karl is a sensible lad really. The only thing that worries me is the motorcycle he intends to buy."

The £94,000 180mph Porsche will prove equally elusive. It will be the end of the year before one is available.

Mrs Crompton, who intends to continue working as a chiropodist's receptionist, played a key part in the win by suggesting numbers as her son hurriedly completed his ticket on Saturday before embarking on a night's "clubbing". She wrote the winning numbers on the back of the *Radio Times*. "I thought mum and dad were having a joke. It wasn't until I checked Teletext that I realised I had hit the jackpot," Mr Crompton said.

Before leaving Blackpool yesterday morning, Mr Crompton called his boss. "He said 'I suppose I won't be



Karl Crompton, who won almost £11 million, plans to buy a Porsche and race motorcycles — "if mum lets me"

seeing you at 9am then?" I said 'Presumably not.' His immediate plans are for a holiday, possibly in Mauritius with a mate". Then he will buy a house for himself and any other members of his family

who would like one. "Somewhere in Blackpool — all my friends are close by," he said. If he should ever toy with the idea of work as a diversion, Mr Crompton would buy a nightclub. He has no fears

that the money will be frittered. Six years ago he was awarded £20,000 compensation after breaking both wrists in an industrial accident. "I've hardly spent any of it," he said. The one suggestion of

possible profligacy came as Mr Crompton popped the cork on a bottle of champagne and sprayed photographers. Subsequent inquiries revealed, however, that the bubbly was on someone else's tab.

Singer forsakes fish for his flute

By DALIA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

IAN ANDERSON, the millionaire flautist and singer with the rock group Jethro Tull, is turning his back on fish-farming to devote himself entirely to the band.

He established a £14 million Scottish fish-farm business in 1982 with the proceeds of his distinctive folk-rock music, but yesterday said his heart had always been in music. Anderson, who once joked that the pleasures of going on stage came a close third to sex and curry, is stepping down as chairman of his Inverness-based Ian Anderson Group.

When Jethro Tull started in

1968, Anderson thought the band was last five years at most. He later said: "I take life on stage one bar at a time." His biggest hit, *Living in the Past*, made No 3 in 1969. He has said the band's success was down to its audiences.

Anderson, 48, was yesterday embarking with the band on a tour of Australia and New Zealand. Six weeks in Europe will follow. After a concert last October, a review in *The Times* said: "He can still play the flute, metal or wooden, in a way never copied, never bettered."

His business has been renamed the Strathaird Group after his former Skye estate. Its new chairman is Michael Lunn, former chairman of the White and Mackay Group, but Anderson will continue to hold a majority of shares. The company employs 200 people at Inverness, 100 at Buckie in Grampian and 45 on Skye.

Anderson, who grew up in Edinburgh and Blackpool, said: "It has always been my intention to continue my career in music. I am delighted at the way the business has grown. I appreciate that it has attained a size and is competing in markets where we need the type of international experience and presence that Michael Lunn can bring."



Anderson said his heart was in music

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MPs support ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE ban on homosexuals serving in the Armed Forces was backed by a Commons committee yesterday after a comprehensive review by MPs. The MPs accepted that the presence of openly homosexual servicemen and women would have a "significant adverse impact on morale and, ultimately, on operational effectiveness".

The MPs on the Select Committee on the Armed Forces Bill, which meets every five years to review legislation covering the three services, acknowledged that they had been impressed by those who argued that the ban was an infringement of human rights.

However, in its report, published yesterday, the committee said: "There has to be a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the whole. In an organisation in which strict discipline and good morale are essential, it has long been accepted that members have to live with certain restrictions that do not apply in civilian life."

Support for the ban on homosexuals from the committee, which consisted of six Conservative MPs and five Labour MPs, including John Reid, a Labour defence spokesman, will add weight to the Government's case if it has to defend its policy before the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg.

The committee studied the policies of other countries, but remained unconvinced there was a need for change. The report said: "There is no easy compromise available. None of the various options that have been put forward can satisfy everyone." The MPs rejected the American policy of "don't ask, don't tell" as impractical, and also dismissed the German approach under which homosexuals are allowed to serve but only in certain roles.

Since the last committee reported five years ago, 30 officers and 331 other ranks had been discharged or dismissed on grounds of homosexuality, the report said.

Four of those dismissed are still pursuing legal action against the Government and plan to take their case to Strasbourg if they fail in the House of Lords.

The MPs were persuaded by the arguments of servicemen and women who took part in a recent Ministry of Defence survey of opinion and opposed lifting the ban.

However, the MPs expressed concern that individuals in the services who wished to talk about their homosexuality should have someone to go to without fear of being exposed.

While taking evidence the MPs heard allegations that, in some cases, chaplains had passed on confidential information about a person's sexuality to commanding officers, leading to investigations and the person being discharged. The committee said: "We recommend that the MoD and those responsible for the chaplaincies ensure that all discussions between chaplains and personnel remain strictly confidential."

Angela Mason, executive director of Stonewall, which campaigns for gay rights, said yesterday: "The select committee has yet again pandered to prejudice."

□ *Special Report from the Select Committee on the Armed Forces Bill, HMSO, £22.*

How Navy copes with mixed crews

By MICHAEL EVANS

ROYAL NAVY warships with mixed crews must follow a code of conduct between the sexes, including no touching or leering or pictures of a "sexual nature" that might offend.

Details of the "Green Guide", as well as general orders given to Navy commanding officers about women at sea, are published for the first time in yesterday's report by the Select Committee on the Armed Forces Bill.

Under the rules for mixed crews, members of the opposite sex may enter each other's messdecks between 8am and 10pm (sleep time) only with permission and provided the quarters guarantee adequate privacy for those trying to sleep or change.

Intimate touching or other behaviour between the sexes "is not permitted in ships at any time".

The Green Guide covers

disciplinary offences, including cases of alleged sexual harassment, stating: "Behaviour which could be construed as harassment includes unsolicited acts ranging from leers, gestures or comments of a sexual nature, to subtle or explicit demands for or offers of sexual favours. The display of material of a sexual nature in a place where it can be offensive to the opposite sex can also constitute sexual harassment."

The guide also gives warning that any relationship between the sexes of any rank or rating which gives the impression of partiality or compromises the chain of command is forbidden.

The general orders for all commanding officers acknowledge that "ashore, there is little that can be done to stop intimacy in private between consenting adults, although the consequences are often greater than the participants realise. Experience suggests that affairs can rarely be kept secret".



Thixendale in the Yorkshire Wolds has never had a proper television picture. Residents have to rely on video recordings from friends

Village plans warm reception for TV

By PAUL WILKINSON

PEOPLE in the remote farming hamlet of Thixendale live in a time warp. Not for them the rush home to catch the latest episode of *Coronation Street*, or afterwards spent glued to Channel Four Racing.

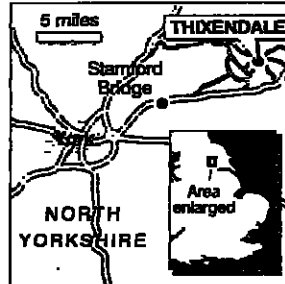
The village is one of the few mainland communities where watching prime-time television is something other people do. Despite all the advances in the science of transmission since John Logie Baird gave his first demonstration in 1926, watching television in the tiny community, tucked in a fold of the Yorkshire Wolds, is akin to watching through a snowstorm.

Geographical conditions mean that the signal for all

four terrestrial channels passes way over the villagers' heads. Satellite TV is accessible, but as yet few of Thixendale's 120 residents have signed up for it. Instead they rely on recordings sent by friends in areas with better reception or a ten-mile drive along country lanes to either Malton or Driffield to rent videos.

Tony Fisher, a newcomer to the village, said: "I could not believe it when I moved here 13 months ago and they said we could not pick up television. Now I have got quite used to it."

Instead, the community enjoys more traditional leisure pursuits, such as pub darts and barn dances. Mr Fisher, 30, who works for the Ministry of Agriculture, said: "My



dominoes are coming along a treat." Lynne Boyce, who runs the village store, said: "I have never really watched TV, but then we have never really had a picture you can see properly. It drives my husband mad. He loves his sport, but he cannot tell what is going on. I don't even think he knows TVs have colour pictures now."

People have become so fed up with the situation that they have launched a campaign to raise £10,000 for a hilltop communal aerial to feed a cable network in the village.

The fortnight-long fundraising festival is called "Life Without TV" and will feature the very events — puppet shows, drama, music and crafts — which TV has killed off in many communities.

Andrian Ingleby, the organiser, said: "Living in rural isolation means there are no convenient cinemas, discos or clubs and we have to provide our own entertainment."

Mary Anstey, who runs the Cross Keys pub, was a little apprehensive. "I hope it does not affect my takings. There is a wonderful community

spirit here and I won't spoil the darts and darts by installing a TV in the bar when it arrives."

A spokesman for National Transcommunications Ltd, which shares transmitter ownership with the BBC, said: "About 99.4 per cent of the population can receive TV pictures, but there are still some communities where high ground or tall buildings block the signal and a special aerial has to be installed."

Yesterday the village called a press conference to attract publicity for its campaign. Cameras for the local television news programmes were there in force, but unfortunately no one in Thixendale was able to watch it.

TV Listings, page 47

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Roy Hattersley the £110,000 journalist is head and shoulders above his Labour colleagues

Tories dominate list of Commons biggest earners

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
ANDREW PIERCE
AND JAMES LANDALE

THE REGISTER

THE first Commons register detailing MPs' outside earnings has unearthed a previously undeclared treasure chest of consultancy contracts worth well over £2 million a year.

Tory MPs far outweigh their Labour counterparts in the scale of their earnings, declaring contracts worth up to £2 million. Although Labour MPs reveal payments of only £600,000, the register gives a first insight into the scale of trade union funding for office and staff expenses, which can amount to £30,000 a year in some cases.

Under new rules introduced last year, MPs now have to divulge details of earnings from outside work gained as a result of being an MP. Having resisted pressure to register the precise sum, they have to declare their incomes in £5,000 bands.

Earnings from directorships and many other business interests — such as working as a solicitor or accountant — do not have to be declared, nor does pay for work begun before an MP entered the Commons.

The former Labour deputy leader Roy Hattersley

(Birmingham Sparkbrook) is top of the list, disclosing earnings of up to £80,000 for his work for *The Mail on Sunday* and up to £30,000 for his work for *The Guardian*.

Behind him the top earners come entirely from the Tory back benches. Patrick Nicholls (Teignbridge) declares up to £76,000 from consultancies and advisory work. He declares earnings of up to £15,000 each from Hill & Smith Holdings, Channel Express Ltd, British Bus and the Clinical Dental Technicians' Association. He also collects up to £10,000 from the National Specialist Contractors' Council as a consultant, and up to £5,000 as an adviser to the London Tailors' Wells. His earnings for the polling firm Harris are declared at between £1 and £1,000.

Mr Nicholls provoked anger last year by demanding that MPs' pay should be raised to £126,000.

Sir Dudley Smith (Warwick and Leamington) declares an outside income of up to £55,000, including two consultancy contracts each worth up to £15,000 with Gillette Management and Faulding Pharmaceuticals. He also reveals contracts worth up to

£10,000 with Pielle Corporate Communications, a consultancy to industry, and consultancies of up to £5,000 from the Cosmetic, Toiletary and Perfumery Association, Celltech, and Whitehall Laboratories.

Andrew Hunter (Basingstoke) declares up to £50,000 of outside work including a £15,000 consultancy contract to the Timeshare Council and to Political Planning Services, a property industry public relations firm. He also reveals contracts of up to £10,000 to the engineering firm Scott, Wilson, Kirkpatrick and the pharmaceutical company Lilly Pharmaceuticals.

Keith Hampson (Leeds North West) lists a string of consultancies bringing him up to £46,000. He reveals a £15,000 contract with PowerGen, £10,000 contracts with NCM credit insurance, and the insurance management company Alexander and Alexander. He also has work earning up to £5,000 from the Association of University Teachers and a training company, CAPITE.

Quentin Davies (Stamford and Spalding) is a merchant banker. His consultancies earn him up to £42,000. He is paid £20,000-£25,000 by NatWest Securities. Mr Davies, a member of the Treasury Select Committee, is also the parliamentary consultant to the Chartered Institute of Taxation.

Jack Aspinwall (Warrington), whose heart attack last year prompted fears of another by-election, earned up to £42,000. He is the parliamentary and public affairs consultant to Rentokil, for a fee of up to £10,000, British Airways Authority (£20,000) and British Gas (up to



The top four earners, from left: the Labour Party's Roy Hattersley and the Tory MPs Patrick Nicholls, Sir Dudley Smith and Andrew Hunter. Mr Hattersley's lucrative work for the Mail on Sunday and The Guardian brings his declared earnings to the top of the list

HATTERSLEY, Rt. Hon. Roy (Birmingham, Sparkbrook)

2. Remunerated employment, office, profession etc.
Writing, broadcasting and occasional lecturing.

Before and after: The new register, right, details the outside earnings of MPs in bands of £5,000 whereas the old one provided no figures at all

£10,000). He also earns up to £2,000 from market research panels.

Spencer Batiste (Elmet) has a wide portfolio of outside interests but lists only his fees from consultancies. Mr Batiste cites under remunerated employment his profession as solicitor and law clerk assaying precious metals and the directorship of a Sheffield laboratory company.

The payments he specifies

are £5,000 as consultant to the Music Industries Association, up to £15,000 from Magellan Medical Communications, consultants on health issues, and £15,000 from Energic Communications, a telecommunications company. He is also a member of the market research panels.

Ian Bruce (South Dorset) runs his own recruitment, management and parliamentary consultancy. He is parlia-

mentary adviser to the Telecommunications Managers' Association, for up to £15,000, adviser to a firm of personal injury employment advisers, for £10,000, and he is paid up to £15,000 from the Federation of Recruitment and Employment Services.

Sir Anthony Grant (South West Cambridgeshire), who is standing down at the election, lists consultancies and directorships of up to £40,000. They

include an adviser's role with Barclays Bank for between £5,000 and £10,000. John Greenway (Ryedale) an insurance broker, is also in the £40,000 bracket. He is paid up to £15,000 by the Institute of Insurance Brokers. His consultancies with Yorkshire Tyres Television and a healthcare company provide up to £25,000.

Leading article, page 19

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Leading article, page 19

Trade union figures 'not clear'

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

FRESH details of how much Labour MPs receive from trade unions and outside consultancies were disclosed in the Register of Members' Interest yesterday.

Although most union cash goes direct to Labour constituencies as sponsorship and does not have to be declared, Opposition MPs have been forced to say how much the unions give them directly.

As Labour's employment spokesman, Ian McCartney receives £3,000 from the Fire Brigade Union, £10,000 from the Communication Workers' Union and £12,500 from Unison for his office.

However, Labour MPs were attacked

by the Tories for failing to declare how much they received from the unions to pay for their election expenses. Many Opposition MPs, including Tony Blair and John Prescott, said simply that a union or other interest group paid "more than 25 per cent" of their election expenses in 1992 — without giving a precise figure.

Election expenses for individual MPs are difficult to calculate because the limits vary in each constituency. Voters wanting to discover how much their Labour MP was given by the unions would have to do the calculations themselves.

"This leaves us none the wiser about the

money that changes hands between the unions and the Labour Party," a senior Tory source said. "It is meaningless to talk about 25 per cent. Tory MPs have come out and followed the new rules — why don't Labour do the same?"

Jack Cunningham, Shadow National Heritage Secretary, is the Labour frontbencher receiving the most from consultancies. He receives up to a total of £30,000 as an adviser to Albright and Wilson (UK) Ltd, Hays Chemicals, and Centurion Press Ltd. Doug Henderson, a home affairs spokesman, gains up to £10,000 as a consultant to the Machine Tools Technologies Association and up to £20,000 in research support from the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd.

Hundreds receive cash for questions

RESEARCH FEES

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the easiest ways MPs earn extra money is by filling in questionnaires for market researchers.

The register this year reveals for the first time that at least 250 MPs, of all parties, are members of Harris Parliamentary Panel and the Business Planning and Research International. Last year the organisations barely featured in the register.

All the MPs cite the same annual fee range of £1 to £1,000. Neither Harris nor BPRI, despite the new era of openness about MPs pay in relation to their parliamentary work, would confirm the exact sums involved. But they both confirmed that none of them had been paid the £1 at the lower end of the scale.

Michael Morris, the Deputy Speaker, Sir Geoffrey Lofthouse and Dame Janet Fookes, other deputy speakers, all receive income from various parliamentary panels.

Membership of the organisations does not require much of the MPs' time. They are sent questionnaires, up to eight times a year, with up to 30 questions. The answers are sent to clients of the market research companies who range from blue-chip companies to local authorities.

A spokesman for BPRI said: "It's not a lot of work and they don't get paid much. It is not as much as £1,000. Any MP who is not a minister can become a member of the panel. Harris pay more than us."

David Towling, a spokesman for Harris, said: "We are not at liberty to reveal the figure. It is commercially confidential. It is true that none were paid £1."

IN PARLIAMENT

Yesterday in the Commons: questions to defence ministers and the Prime Minister; Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Bill, second reading; backbench debate on hospital and dental services in Southampton and south-west Hampshire. In the Lords: Deregulation Bill, third reading; London Regional Transport Bill, second reading; Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Bill, third reading.

Today in the Commons: backbench debate; Foreign Office questions; Labour debate on the prospects for water supplies this summer, and on the fire service; In the Lords: regulation of UK business; effects of the privatisation; Deep (Fouling of Land) Bill, second reading.

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ADAMIRAL

Mellor and Heath top list of non-disclosers

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tory MPs who have refused to disclose their earnings are among the most senior at Westminster. They include Sir Edward Heath and David Mellor, who have some of the most lucrative consultancies.

Kenneth Baker, the former party chairman, has also failed to conform with the new spirit of openness heralded by the Nolan report.

Mr Mellor, the former Heritage Secretary, lists ten consultancies, which earn him a reputed £300,000. He states in his entry that he is an adviser to a number of companies involved in exports, primarily to the Middle East, such as Short Brothers, British Aerospace and Vosper Thornycroft. "In relation to all the other companies, I am engaged in business development unrelated to my position as an MP," he wrote. Mr

EX-MINISTERS

Mellor advises two Middle East media organisations. He does not list his salary as host of a BBC 5 Live football talk show on Saturday evenings. Critics pointed out that Roy Hattersley, by contrast, listed his payments as a na-



Mellor names ten consultancies

tional newspaper columnist.

Kenneth Baker, who was Minister of State for Trade Industry and Technology, lists six directorships. Three are for companies involved in cable and telecommunications. He fails to declare income from two advisory posts in the cable sector and from his work as a writer and broadcaster.

Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, who has seven directorships, does not disclose his earnings from three consultancies or his media fees. John Patten, the former Education Secretary, has not disclosed his income from two consultancies.

Sir Edward Heath made clear when the new rules were established that he had no intention of declaring any income he derived as a result of being a former Prime Minister. He lists the chairmanship of Dumps Gap Company, which he set up in 1976 as a channel for his activities.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MAY 8 1996
Labour in cut spend welfare

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Labour intends to cut spending on welfare benefits

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR has declared an intention to spend less than the Tories on welfare by ensuring that claimants move off benefit and into work.

In what will be seen as another reversal in traditional Labour strategy, Chris Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, said yesterday that it was "absurd" to regard extra spending on welfare as a success.

Labour fought the last general election promising big hikes in spending on state pensions and child benefit funded by tax increases. But Mr Smith made clear that these expectations were to be disappointed. "To regard the amount we spend as the badge of virtue is absurd," he said.

In the next few weeks Mr Smith is expected to announce new policies on welfare, concentrating on single mothers and young people, state pensions and child support. Yesterday he declined to give any details and skirted round Gordon Brown's controversial policy to scrap child benefit for 16 to 19-year-olds, which is still under negotiation.

However, in a speech on Labour's social security reforms, Mr Smith said: "I despair of those who argue that it is somehow a cause of the Left in politics to spend more on social security and social support. It isn't a mark of progressive success if you are spending more and more on a benefit system. If that were the case, then Peter Lilley would be earning full marks in the pantheon of socialist heroes."

"It is a mark of success if you can help people to move off benefit and into work. It is progress if we can end up, as a result, spending less on social security."

Mr Smith argued that under the Tories the social security budget had grown by a third to £90 billion. He criticised Mr Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, saying that his "salami-slicing" approach to reducing benefit spending

had resulted every year in overspending at the Social Security Department.

"They have ended up with a real double whammy for the people of Britain: a social security system that grows more brutal year by year, increasingly degrading for those dependent on it, and a system that has simultaneously become far more expensive for the taxpayers of the country as a whole."

But in a move that will please leftwingers, Mr Smith also promised that a Labour government would try to find a clear, measurable definition of poverty. "I grieve at the way in which poverty has tended to be written out of the Government's political script in recent years. We have to write it back in again."

He said that under the Tories the poorest tenth of the population had seen its real income fall by 17 per cent while that of the richest tenth had risen by 61 per cent.

Mr Smith, a key moderniser in the Shadow Cabinet, made



clear that Labour would expect the private sector to contribute in some areas of welfare support. He suggested there would be an overhaul of the state pension system, with the private sector working alongside the public sector.

It is understood that he has dropped the idea of a minimum guaranteed pension for poorer pensioners, but that he favours a second pension based on compulsory contributions that could be topped up.

He said: "Surely it is time to

get away from the sterile battle lines of public and private and instead to look at how the two can best work together in the interests of the citizen—and in the interests of all citizens, at that."

He also hinted at changes to the housing benefit system as part of a drive to reduce means testing, which often deterred people from seeking work. One option is to reduce the level at which housing benefit is deducted from claimants as soon as they start work, from 65 per cent to 50 per cent.

Smith must follow in Brown's cautious tracks

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown believe that the key test for any Labour government will be how far it modernises the welfare state. That is why the current dispute over child benefit matters and why Mr Brown's view should, and almost certainly will, prevail.

Welfare reform is one of the trickiest issues for any party. Even slowing the growth of social security spending is very hard, as Peter Lilley can readily testify. Labour is torn between its heart and its head — between its longstanding concern with poverty and equality, and its acceptance of the need to break welfare dependency and to control social spending. Any change is likely to involve cuts in entitlements and therefore to be resisted by interest groups within the party.

Chris Smith's statement of Labour's principles yesterday was a careful balancing act, long on good intentions but short on specific proposals which are promised for the next few weeks. Mr Smith offers a persuasive analysis of why social security spending has risen so sharply: higher unemployment and the many disincentives against moving into work, plus the shift of housing subsidies from property to people. Mr Smith

MODEL ON POLITICS

condemns the Tories' salami-slicing tactics of "attacking one group in society after another, reducing one benefit after another." Many of the claimed savings are, he says, elusive since they shift spending from one benefit to another.

Instead, Mr Smith argues that "a sensible government would be seeking to attack the root causes of rising expenditure" by helping as many people as possible to come off benefits altogether by getting back into work. A shift to a more active role for welfare spending — a benefit-to-work strategy — from the past, largely passive structure is desirable, as Frank Field discusses on page 18. Indeed, the Government has started to move in that direction, though with more stick than carrot than Labour favours.

Overall, Mr Smith argues that "it isn't a mark of progressive success if you are spending more and more on a benefit system. It is a mark of success if you can help people to move off benefit and into work. It is progress if we can end up as a result spending less on social security." That sounds fine in theory, but Labour needs to be much

more specific, not least about tackling fraud.

Labour's case would be more convincing if it had not opposed almost all the Tories' measures to curb social security spending and presented itself as the defender of existing social entitlements. That is why Mr Brown's proposal to end child benefit for 16 to 19-year-olds is so symbolically important. He suggests using the £700 million savings for a new system of grants to help children of poorer parents remain in education. There are differing views on its merits, although some of the Labour criticisms are motivated by dislike of Mr Brown's style and the way the plan was oversold by his office before decisions have been taken.

But Mr Brown is right on the substance: "tough choices" cannot be avoided. If Labour's welfare plans are to be credible the party has to identify specific savings. Some current beneficiaries have to lose. There is no painless way to increase spending on favoured projects: either other programmes have to be cut or taxes will have to rise. Mr Smith needs to be equally hard-edged in his later, more specific proposals.

PETER RIDDELL

Insurance plans will help elderly to protect assets

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THREE new ways for people to protect their homes from being sold to pay for care in their old age were suggested by the Government yesterday.

All involve individuals buying financial packages to cover nursing or residential home fees, which can cost £20,000 a year. In return, the Government will allow people to keep more of their assets to be passed to their children.

It could cost £18,500 to protect an £80,000 house. With only one in five needing care, people can still choose not to make special provision for their old age and take the risk of losing their assets.

The consultation paper, *A New Partnership for Care in Old Age*, offers alternatives to the present means test which requires those who can afford it to pay for their care. People with only £10,000 in assets now have to make a contribution and those with £16,000 must pay in full, usually between £12,000 and £21,500.

Only when their savings and capital have been whittled down to the limit will the State pay the costs. The retired will be encouraged to buy indemnity insurance. The Government could provide an incentive by disregarding £150 of capital for every £1 of insurance cover bought. To protect a house worth £60,000 and savings of £10,000, a policy with a monthly premium of £50 would be required.

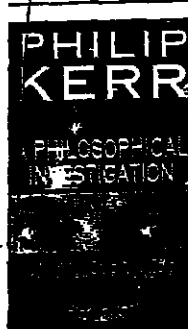
People already in care or about to need it, including the seriously disabled and those with dementia, will be urged to buy an annuity, paying a fixed sum for the rest of their expected life span. They too could be rewarded by being allowed to keep more capital.

This second scheme would be expensive: an 80-year-old woman protecting a £65,000 house and £20,000 savings would pay £18,500 for her annuity. The third option is to encourage younger workers to buy flexible pensions, offering lower sums immediately after retirement and more later when people need extra care.

The Government accepts its ideas would cost the taxpayer more. It warns people planning to offload their assets before going into care that it is studying ways to detect evasion of care charges.

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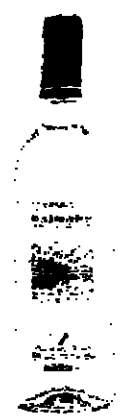
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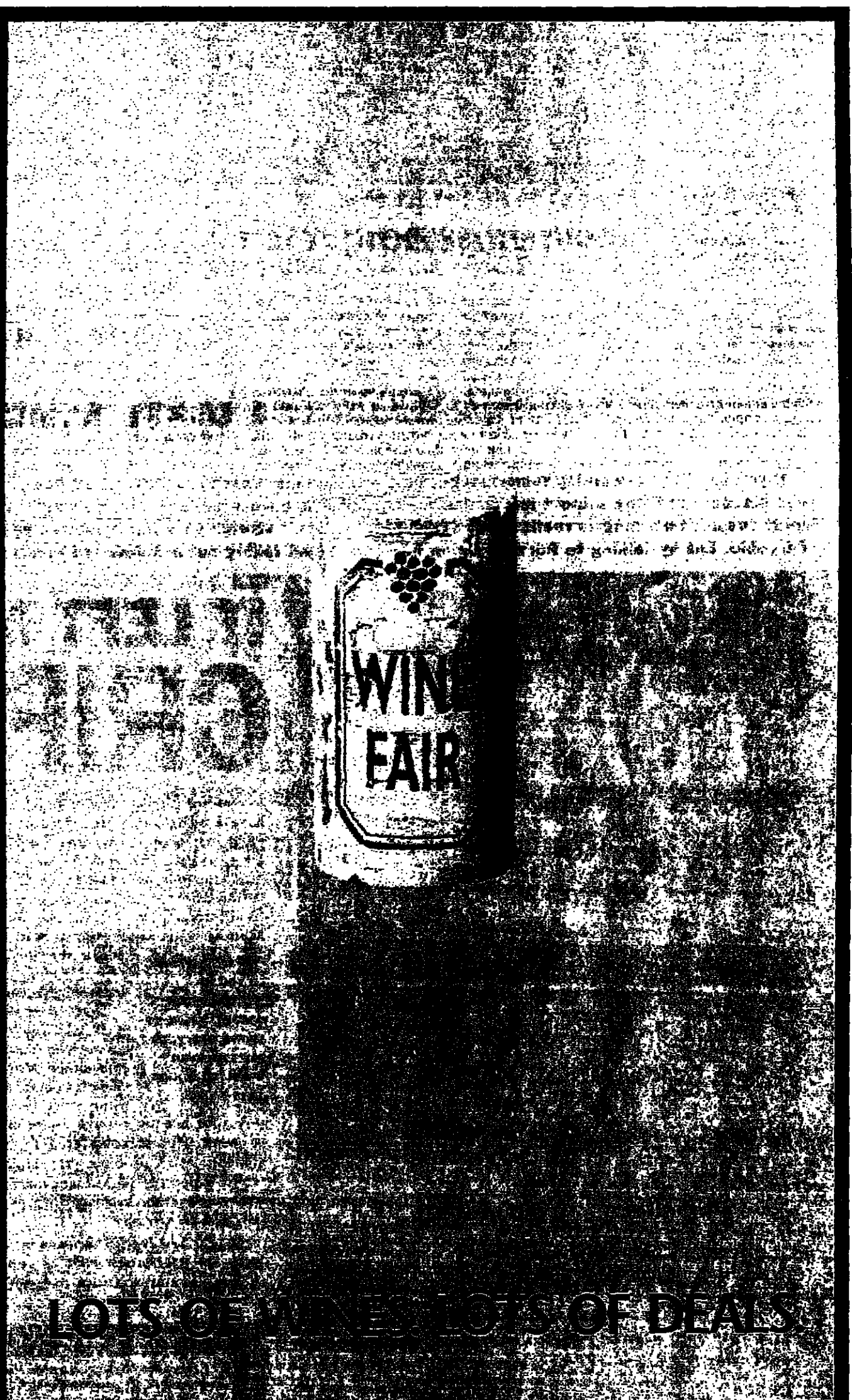
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Pioneer Packard leaves \$7bn of computer fortune to charity

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A RECLUSIVE, penny-conscious computer pioneer who died in March left more than \$7 billion to charity, creating America's richest private foundation.

David Packard, a shy electronics engineer who co-founded the Hewlett-Packard company in a garage in 1938, died at the age of 83. Having earlier provided amply for his four children, he left 46 million Hewlett-Packard shares in his will to a charity he started with his late wife. The shares, along with others given by Packard, are worth \$7.2 billion (£4.8 billion), and rising.

The bequest catapults the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to the top of the charity league, alongside the Ford and Kellogg Foundations and the J. Paul Getty Trust. It marks the modest Packard as perhaps the greatest philanthropist of all time, and will ensure that a man who hated boasting will become more celebrated in death than he was in the course of his industrious, low-profile life.

Such is the size of the Packard donation that the foundation has no idea how to spend its riches.

Months of talks will be held to consider the directions in which the foundation's munificence should extend. The charity will be supervised by Packard's four children, Nancy, Julie, David and Susan, who themselves own enough Hewlett-Packard stock to see them through their lives in comfort.

The children suddenly find themselves in a lottery-board-style position of dispensing huge sums of money. Their own interests range from the

theatre to marine biology, but the charity's likely areas of work will be concerned with global population, environmental protection and science education.

Packard once declared that "you shouldn't gloat about anything you've done; you ought to keep going and try to find something better to do." When his company was listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 1961, he and his partner, William Hewlett, travelled down to Wall Street, at Packard's insistence, on the Subway.

They lost their way and arrived late to witness their

big day at the exchange — but at least they saved the cost of a taxi.

The Palo Alto garage in which the two men started their electronics company with \$538 became known as the birthplace of California's Silicon Valley, now home to the many computer companies.

Hewlett-Packard became the second biggest computer company after IBM, with 1995 revenues of \$31 billion. At the behest of its co-founders it made large charitable contributions to its neighbour, Stanford University.

Packard helped the careers

of senior executives at Apple and Microsoft, among other leading computer companies, and charitable organisations will hope that his largesse sets an example to Silicon Valley's countless millionaires.

Some other foundations have seen battles between family members, but the Packard children follow their father's non-flamboyant habits. Julie Packard said that over-population would be a focus for the newly-rich foundation.

The Packard millions are unusually plentiful. An increasing number of rich men's children will probably be in a similar position in the next 15 to 20 years as the American technology boom's successful pioneers die and seek, in their wills, to perpetuate their names for posterity.

Daniel Borochoff, president of the American Institute of Philanthropy, said last night: "As the baby boom generation ages, there will be an incredible inter-generational transfer of wealth. We hope to see more donations like this."



David Packard tests an electronic device in a garage in California at start of business

TOP TEN CHARITY FOUNDATIONS			
America	£m	Britain	£m
D & L Packard Foundation	4,800	Wellcome Trust	6,983
The Ford Foundation	4,400	Church Commissioners for England	2,381
W K Kellogg Foundation	4,020	Weston (Garfield) Foundation	1,314
J Paul Getty Trust	4,000	Leverhulme Trust	524
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	2,530	Gatsby Charitable Foundation	489
The Pew Charitable Trusts	2,200	Wolfson Foundation	473
Lilly Endowment Inc.	2,070	British Museum	412
J D & C T MacArthur Foundation	1,930	Smith's (Henry) (Kensington Estate)	401
The Rockefeller Foundation	1,570	National Trust	395
Andrew W Mellon Foundation	1,460	Bridge House Estates	382

Clinton stubs out liberal image for role of moraliser

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton travelled to a New Jersey high school yesterday to mark "Kick Butts Day" with a speech discouraging teenage smoking.

The President did not let his own weakness for an occasional cigar inhibit him. Yesterday's made-for-television appearance was part of a highly disciplined election-year drive to present himself as the champion of conservative "family values". Scorned by the failures of his first two years in office, Mr Clinton has abandoned his role as America's top policy expert for that of national preacher, and he plays it like a master.

Mr Clinton never now talks about homosexuals in the military or the need for greater racial and sexual diversity in government. He has urged a return to school uniforms to encourage discipline, and announced moves denying welfare benefits to teenage mothers who leave school or refuse to live at home.

To discourage abortion and "strengthen American families" he has backed a \$5,000 (£3,300) annual tax break for parents of adopted children. He has unveiled a new, but largely cosmetic, drugs strategy and appointed a Pentagon general as the White House "drugs tsar".

Once dazzled by Hollywood, he now deplores its output of sex and violence and has persuaded studio executives to support "V-chips" in television so that parents can block programmes unsuitable for children. New proposals have been put forward to limit welfare and "affirmative action" programmes designed to help minorities. Mr Clinton's



Clinton: partial to an occasional good cigar

1992 campaign slogan was: "It's the economy, stupid". This year's seems to be "It's values, stupid", and it is driven by his advisers' belief that the United States remains in a deeply conservative mood despite the unpopularity of the "Republican revolution".

The strategy is driving the Republicans to distraction. Mr Clinton is not only stealing their trump cards but defying their best efforts to label him a liberal.

"Talk Right, run Left. That's Bill Clinton's record," Mr Dole complained last weekend. The President "talked conservatively while walking knee-deep in the swamps of liberalism. He will look you in the eye and tell you exactly what you want to hear."

□ Petrol plea: Mr Dole was asking the Senate last night to repeal Mr Clinton's 1995 petrol tax increase of 4.3 cents a gallon to offset rising oil prices. The Senate was expected to agree. The Republicans did not say how they would recoup lost revenues at a time when they are seeking to balance the federal budget.

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find it's nowhere near enough. The truth is, it's still down to you to maintain your own standard of living, and your family's, even if you no longer have a job, and no real amount of money coming in. Not your employer or the State. You. And to be honest you're going to need some help.

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NORWICH UNION

Fraud suit for Queen of Mean

BY QUENTIN LETTS

LEONA HELMSLEY, the mascara-laden Manhattan millionaire who was once jailed for tax evasion, faces fresh legal difficulties after being sued by her husband's two oldest business allies.

She is accused of siphoning off \$40 million (£27 million) of company money, of charging a \$1 million private jet to expenses and, generally, of behaving in a disagreeable, didactic, characteristic fashion. The "Queen of Mean", as Mrs Helmsley became known during the 1989 trial that led to her 21-month prison sentence, has a new nickname: "Lootin' Leona". She denies any wrongdoing.

The charges have been made by Alvin Schwartz, 84, and Irving Schneider, 76, who built America's most formidable commercial property company with Harry Helmsley.

Messrs Schwartz and Schneider had an option to buy the Helmsley-Spear company in the case of Mr Helmsley's death, and were assured lucrative positions for life. But that was before Harry started to lose his senses and his spouse sought to take control of the business.

Baywatch bimbo flops at box office

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

THE star of the *Baywatch* television series and walking advertisement for surgical implants, Pamela Anderson, has proved a box-office flop in her feature film debut.

Barb Wire, set in 1917 with a plot loosely based on *Casablanca*, took in a paltry \$1.2 million (£1.2 million) in its first weekend despite opening in nearly 1,500 cinemas after months of steamy publicity. After three days it ranked twelfth in the US charts.

As a lifeguard in *Baywatch*, she is among the world's most popular television stars, watched by about two billion people a week in 140 countries. But her failure to light up the big screen reflects the fact that *Baywatch* is less popular in America than abroad.

In the film, Anderson plays the eponymous Barb, a nightclub owner and bounty hunter in Steel Harbor, the last free city in an America torn by civil war. In a striptease scene, the attempts of the leather-cad and stiletto-heeled star to tantalise won less than unanimous acclaim.

Alan Coren, page 18

Clamour to preserve Afrikaner schools boosts support for all-white state

FROM R. W. JOHNSON
IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA'S deadlocked constitutional negotiations over the future of Afrikaans-only schools has sparked a crisis among the once-dominant Afrikaners.

According to a recent poll, a clear majority of Afrikaners (and half the English-speaking whites) in the Pretoria region favour the establishment of a separate "volkstaat", or homeland. Even among liberal Afrikaners, who customarily have ridiculed the notion of such a volkstaat, one can now hear earnest, troubled discussion about

whether it might be necessary. This change of mood is not a reaction against the loss of Afrikaner power, which has been accepted with a grace and even a deference to the new authorities that has surprised many. It has a little more to do with economics: unemployment among white people has risen from almost zero to 10 per cent, and there is no doubt.

Afrikaners, who still include a disproportionate number of poor whites, are the worst affected, as can be seen in the sad and ravaged faces of the white beggars who throng outside most shopping malls. Until recently, Afrikaners

believed that their sacrifices were buying the survival of their language and culture and thus their own survival as a distinctive group within South Africa.

That is what they thought. F. W. de Klerk had brought them by his peaceful surrender of power, but increasingly one can hear the same bitter accusations of betrayal hurled at him as one can hear in Russia against Mikhail Gorbachev.

The heart of the matter was laid bare just before Easter when the representatives of 21 Afrikaner cultural organisations went in solemn delegation to President

Mandela to demand the retention of single-medium Afrikaans schools and universities.

After all, they pointed out, more South Africans have Afrikaans as their first language than any other tongues except Zulu and Xhosa. All they wanted, they said, was what has come to be regarded as a normal minority right around the world: that is, the same sort of treatment as is accorded to, say, French Canadians.

Mr Mandela, like the rest of the African National Congress, is caught between two stools on this issue. For the fact is that most formerly white schools and univer-

sities are Afrikaans-speaking and, because these institutions are far superior to their all-black equivalents, there is naturally enormous pressure for black entry to them, and such blacks prefer to speak languages other than Afrikaans.

So the Government talks of forcing such institutions to be bilingual, which Afrikaners see as a one-way street to the ultimate supremacy of English, as well as a degradation of standards as schools are overwhelmed by a huge inflow of young blacks.

Further, there are too many poor Afrikaners for the option of private schooling to be a viable option for

more than a fifth of them. The situation is complicated by an anti-Afrikaans bias among many black activists, who clearly want to attack "the language of apartheid". Hence the downgrading of Afrikaans to just 4 per cent of television air time, the pressure to get rid of the springbok as the national sporting emblem, the attempt to do away with Afrikaans in the army and the insistence of student activists at Stellenbosch University that Afrikaans must go because otherwise the university will always be controlled by Afrikaners. Not surprisingly, Afrikaners feel besieged. Although few

say so openly, their indignation is fuelled by the feeling that the one positive thing about apartheid was that it sought to respect and preserve the different African languages and cultures in the various black "homelands".

Mr de Klerk's National Party faces a dilemma: it wants, at almost any cost, to avoid the bruising, divisive and probably losing referendum that would follow failure to agree on a new constitution. But if Mr de Klerk fails to protect Afrikaans schools, he and his party will be rejected by a huge and wrathful majority of their folk.

German protesters wage battle to halt nuclear waste train

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THOUSANDS of German protesters yesterday launched a form of guerrilla warfare against a closely guarded freight train carrying tonnes of nuclear waste from France to its burial site in north Germany.

Railway lines are being sabotaged, signals blocked and explosives strapped to tracks to slow down the progress of the train which, flanked by riot police, is crawling across the country.

With the help of decoy tactics, the 28 containers — carrying about 35 tonnes of spent fuel — managed to evade French Greenpeace protesters who had ringed La Hague reprocessing plant in northwestern France on Monday.

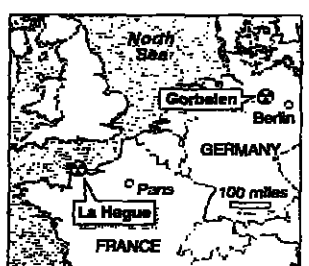
The train is the first of up to 110 planned shipments of nuclear waste and fuel back to German reactors from the French reprocessing plant over the next eight years. It looks certain to be a difficult, even violent passage.

Since April 18 the police have reported over 90 separate incidents in the region of Dannenberg around Gorleben. Bomb and arson threats have been flooding in and are taken seriously by the police. Fifteen thousand police and frontier guards are on the alert along the entire railway line which stretches from Berg in the Rhineland-Palatinate

through the state of Hesse to Gorleben.

Over the past few days, the Berlin-Hannover track has been blocked because of a bomb threat, and four explosive charges were found strapped to a track in Eastern Germany. A signal box has been set ablaze.

Early encounters yesterday were peaceful. A large picket of women blocked the entrance to a police barracks,



while schoolchildren lay in the road in front of a riot police headquarters.

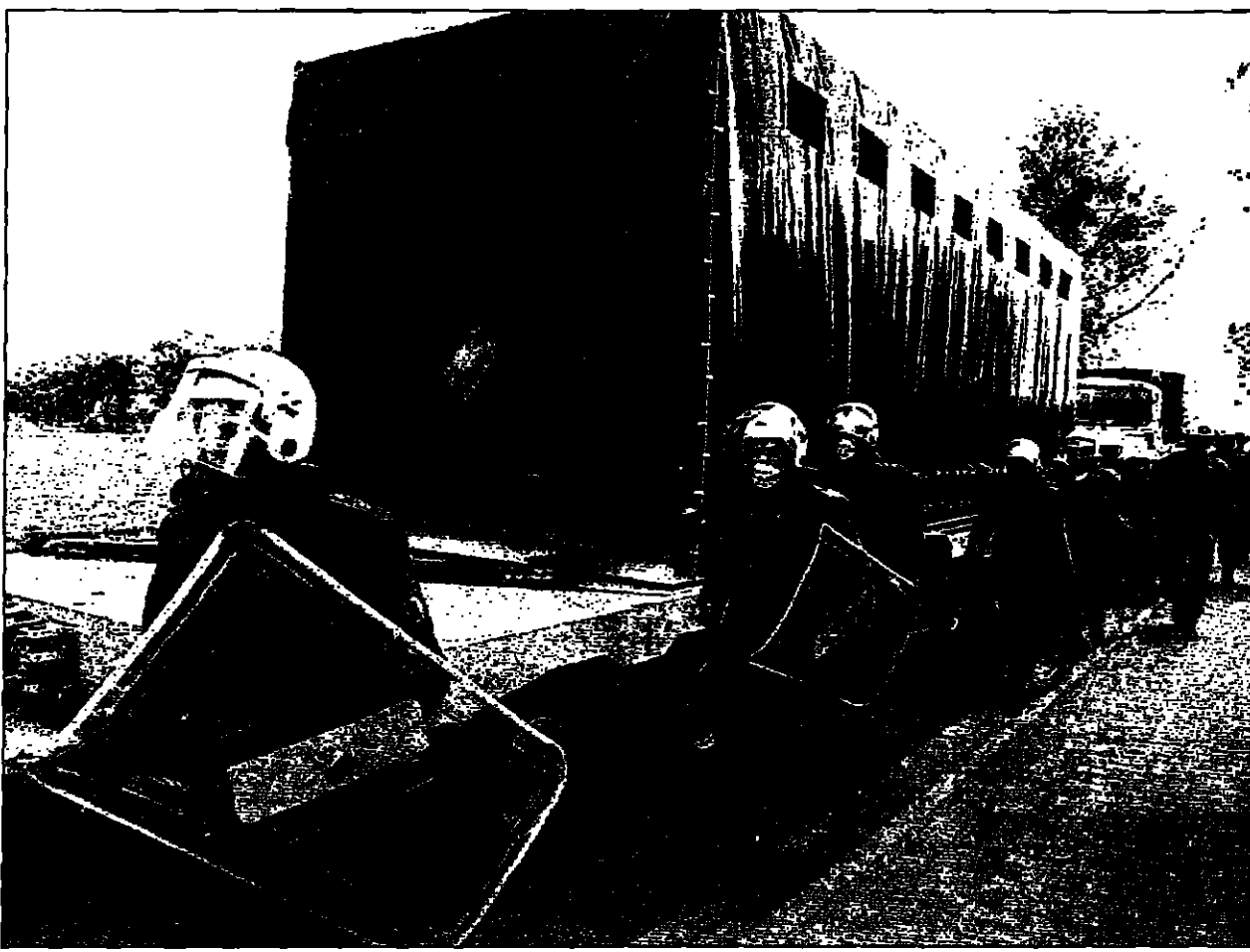
But with a demonstration ban announced yesterday by the local authorities in Dannenberg, it seems that the confrontation will soon turn violent. The burial site was yesterday surrounded by barbed wire and cordons of heavily armed police who searched anyone entering the immediate area. Mounted police units and water cannons have been moved to the wooded, isolated village. The

protests seem set to spread beyond the hard core of environmental activists. In Dannenberg, doctors, dentists, farmers and shopkeepers have announced that they will be stopping work today to express their anger about the delivery of the spent rods. Farmers are planning to use their tractors to block the access road from the railway station to the burial site.

The Gorleben site was initially intended to be a reprocessing plant for Germany's nuclear industry. But Green protests forced a change of plan and German waste is now taken to Sellafield in Cumbria or La Hague for reprocessing and, in the French case, the spent but still highly radioactive waste is sent back to Germany for deep burial in Gorleben.

The German Government termed this a provisional solution, needed in order to keep the country's nuclear programme on track. No new power station can be commissioned without firm contracts establishing how the waste will be disposed of.

Without Gorleben, Germany's 21 nuclear power stations would grind to a halt. It has become one of the country's least loved patches of woodland. From yesterday it was also one of the most secure, resembling a castle under siege.



Riot police provide an escort for a nuclear waste container in Dannenberg, northern Germany, yesterday

Russians fear disaster at reprocessing plant

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

YEVGENI DROZHKO, deputy head of Russia's vast secret nuclear reprocessing plant in Mayak, central Siberia, has given a warning that the accident-prone facility is so unstable that it could cause a huge nuclear disaster.

A government minister, Viktor Vladimirov, also admitted that the amount of radioactive waste dumped

around the reprocessing plant was far higher than the radiation spewed out of Chernobyl during the disastrous explosion ten years ago.

Their warnings came two weeks after a nuclear summit in Moscow agreed that the West must take urgent measures to stabilise Russia's ageing nuclear installations.

Mayak is Russia's only nuclear reprocessing plant. It stores over 500,000 tonnes of solid nuclear waste, more

than 523 million cubic yards of liquid nuclear waste, and handles waste generated by Russia's nuclear submarines.

Mr Vladimirov, the Deputy Emergency Situations Minister, said Mayak — once shrouded in secrecy — had suffered serious accidents. The accidents — in 1949, 1957 and 1967 — were hushed up. Western environmentalists who have visited Mayak have called it a "clockwork bomb". Some 10,000 families

evacuated from contaminated areas are living in makeshift houses put up 30 years ago.

□ Moscow: A Russian nuclear scientist trying to smuggle abroad fissionable material has been detained, authorities said yesterday (Thomas de Waal writes). The unnamed scientist was detained in the west Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk. Tass said he had 2.2lb of high-grade material; this suggests it was weapons-grade plutonium.

Political parrots hawk India slogans

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

INDIA'S strangest general election, conducted with parrots and an uncommon lack of violence, effectively ended last night. The outcome will be chaotic, with no party able to claim a parliamentary majority. The shape of the next Government will be decided over the coming days in smoky backrooms.

The electorate has never seen its politicians so well behaved. The Janata Dal (People's Party), looking for cheap ways of campaigning because of new spending limits, released parrots trained to chant political slogans.

The wheeling and dealing to form the first national coalition will doubtless involve bribing MPs for their support, as the Congress Party did when it fell narrowly short of a majority in the 1991 election. The new Government may be unstable and short-lived. The muddled result marks the end of the Congress Party's towering dominance of politics since independence in 1947.

The detailed result will be known by Friday, and Congress is likely to be in the strongest position to head a coalition with parties from the so-called Third Force, an alliance formed by the National Front and Left Front combines. Congress's main rival, the hardline Bharatiya Janata Party, is short of potential parliamentary allies because of its extremist anti-Muslim tendencies.

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Campaign of murder, torture and sexual violence laid before international court

Café owner 'was zealous tool of the Bosnian Serbs'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN THE HAGUE

THE first international court to sit in judgment on war crimes since the Second World War opened yesterday with the trial of Dusan Tadic, a café owner accused of horrific crimes against humanity during the Bosnian "ethnic cleansing" in 1992.

Laying out his case before the panel of three judges presided over by Gabrielle Kirk McDonald, an American, Grant Niemann, for the prosecution, accused Mr Tadic, 39, of subjecting the Muslim inhabitants of Prijedor in northwest Bosnia to a campaign of murder, torture and sexual and psychological violence.

The accused man, who says he is a victim of mistaken identity, sat impassively in the dock throughout yesterday's proceedings, clad in a dark suit and sombre tie. Mr Tadic's pallid face seldom seemed to register the historic importance of the occasion as he listened through earphones to a translator relaying two very different portraits of his personality and recent past: the brutal ethnic killer or the innocent victim of a worldwide hunger for justice.

A Serb from the small and predominantly Muslim town of Kozarac, Mr Tadic became a zealous tool of the Bosnian Serb authorities, the prosecution said, drawing up lists of his former neighbours for "especially brutal treatment" and making almost daily trips to nearby concentration camps between May and December 1992. There he is alleged to have indulged in an orgy of sadistic violence against the civilian inmates.

The "unspeakable horror" of acts committed in Bosnia in the name of ethnic purity "strains the most agile human reasoning", Mr Niemann, an Australian former public prosecutor, said. "Tadic was allowed to come and go" in the prison camps, beating, brutalising and killing at will. Mr



Sarajevo: Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and General Ratko Mladic, the army leader, are more popular with their people now than last year, according to a poll commissioned by the US Information Agency. Both have been indicted for war crimes and banned from office under the Dayton peace accord. (Reuters)

Tadic is charged specifically with three murders and with participating in the killing of an unspecified number of other people.

The prosecution said that in one incident Mr Tadic and others forced a prisoner to bite off the testicle of another Muslim, who subsequently died. It was also claimed that other victims were forced to drink water like animals from puddles.

Mr Tadic was said to have let off a fire extinguisher in the mouth of an inmate already battered unconscious during



Kirk McDonald: the US presiding trial judge

one of the routine beatings administered using "wooden batons, metal rods and tools, lengths of thick industrial cable that had metal balls fixed to the end, rifle butts and knives". Rape charges were dropped by the prosecution after the alleged victim was reported to have said that she feared for her safety and her family's if she gave evidence.

The defence said that its case had been undermined by lack of co-operation from the Bosnian Serb authorities and the refusal of frightened witnesses to come forward.

The son of a decorated Serbian Second World War ex-serviceman, Mr Tadic was a failed artist whose views embraced extreme nationalism as his country was engulfed by ethnic hatred. He was a small fish, holding no official status in the Bosnian Serb army or administration.

The defence said that the accused man, so far from being an agent of genocide, was a traffic policeman, unsympathetic to Serb nationalism, who did his best to provide humanitarian aid for the refugees and had many Muslim friends before the bitter conflict.

Michail Wladimiroff, the lead defence lawyer, acknowledged the appalling crimes perpetrated in Bosnia, but he questioned whether Mr Tadic would get a fair trial in the circumstances.

"The tribunal must beware of a desire for revenge," Mr Wladimiroff said, describing the allegations of complicity with the Bosnian Serb army as a feeble smokescreen and saying that he would provide proof of Mr Tadic's innocent activities throughout the six months in question.

The evidence of prosecution witnesses is tainted because they have already discussed among themselves the atrocities allegedly committed by Mr Tadic, Mr Wladimiroff argued. "A composite story



Dusan Tadic yesterday at the start of his trial on war crimes charges

emerged. Rumour becomes truth... it is not their suffering that is questioned but their reliability," he said. "The prejudice in this case cannot be underestimated."

Hampered by lack of funds, personnel, documentary evidence and witnesses, yesterday's proceedings are far removed from the Nuremberg or Tokyo war crimes trials, where vast volumes of proof were assembled by an occupying force against the leaders of a defeated enemy.

Instead, the strategy of the prosecution is to show that Mr Tadic, however junior, was a representative cog in the "ethnic cleansing" machine. "This is not an isolated affair, but

part of a co-ordinated strategy," Mr Niemann told the United Nations tribunal, adding that Mr Tadic's alleged crimes were committed in pursuance of the goals of the Serbian state. Mr Tadic's informal role in the atrocities gave him a special status above even that of a camp commander, Mr Niemann said.

The tribunal so far has indicted 57 people and Mr Tadic is one of only three accused men in custody. With Bosnian Serb leaders, including Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, indicted but still at large, the tribunal has little choice but to focus on lower-level people as

representatives of crimes against humanity in Bosnia.

If the Nuremberg trial established the principle that obeying orders from above is no defence in such crimes, then the proceedings at The Hague, by building up from the bottom, represent a new approach: an attempt to implicate those responsible for the atrocities at the highest level from the actions of their underlings and so establish an international legal code to deal with such crimes.

Backing Mr Wladimiroff on the defence team is Steven Kay, who recently resigned as secretary of the Criminal Bar Association of England and Wales to take on the case.

Survivors deride defence claims

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SANSKI MOST

SEVERAL thousand Bosnian Muslims, expelled from northwestern Bosnia four years ago, were glued to their television screens in Sanski Most yesterday for the opening of Dusan Tadic's trial.

The bulk of the Muslims who were expelled from Prijedor and the surrounding area have resettled here. Yesterday they were sceptical of Mr Tadic's defence.

Survivors of Omarska, the camp at which Mr Tadic allegedly acted as an executioner, laughed when they heard that his defence was based on mistaken identity. Mr Tadic's lawyers claim that former inmates of Omarska have mistaken him for someone who looks similar. "It's absolutely ludicrous," said Nedzad Dergic, who was from Mr Tadic's home town of Kozarac. "We all knew each other. It was a small place and everybody saw Dusan."

Serb friends and family members portray Mr Tadic as a popular café owner whose best friends were Muslims. They say Mr Tadic was tormented by the existence of the camps and tried repeatedly to get his friends freed, including Emir Karabasic whom he is accused of killing.

However, Muslim refugees from Kozarac say that Mr Tadic was a thug. Emsud Kruic said: "Of all the four Tadic brothers, Dusan was always the worst."

They say he ran a local karate club but never amounted to much until he joined the Serb National Party in 1990. "At that point, he became the big Serb in town. It wasn't very hard because there were hardly any Serbs in Kozarac," Mr Tergic said.

Mr Tadic stopped socialising with Muslims, they say, and became resentful. The personal nature of his crimes represented "Dusan fighting his own private war".

"We can't understand how he could have hated so much after living with us for so many years," Mr Tergic said.

Iran weds 2,000 couples

Nicosia: More than 2,000 low-income couples were married across Iran yesterday in mass ceremonies organised by an Iranian charity, which also helped the newlyweds with interest-free loans and gifts of household appliances (Michael Theodorou writes).

The number of Iranians marrying in recent years has declined and production-line weddings are seen as an inexpensive way to encourage young people to tie the knot. The fall has been attributed to rising unemployment and a deepening economic crisis. Officials have expressed concern that frustration could fuel social unrest.

Uganda steps up policing for poll

Kampala: Military police took up positions across the capital before the official end of a presidential election campaign haunted by Uganda's violent past. President Museveni, 52, is tipped by most analysts as likely to win tomorrow's election, in which the three candidates run only as individuals and party activity is banned. The result of the voting will be announced on Saturday. (Reuters)

Sex tourist jailed in Philippines

Osaka: Victor Fitzgerald, 65, an Australian, was jailed for up to 17 years in the Philippines in the country's first paedophile conviction under a law aimed at curbing child abuse. He was convicted of sexually abusing a girl, 12, in 1993. Father Shay Cullen, a priest who runs a street children's home here, said the case would be "an example to foreign paedophiles not to touch Filipino children". (AP)

Turin stadium to be demolished

Rome: The Turin authorities are to demolish the city's football stadium, the "Stadium of the Alps", only six years after it was built for £25 million (Richard Owen writes). Spectators say they cannot see matches and Juventus, the leading Turin team, has refused to play there, threatening to transfer their games to Bologna.

Denktas heart monitor seized

Nicosia: The United Nations is to deliver a heart monitor for Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, after it was seized by Customs on the divided island. The monitor is said to have been held because it was addressed to the "President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus". (AFP)

Pie-eyed driver

Whangarei: A hungry woman who had too much to drink mistook a New Zealand police van for a meat pie wagon — when she drove up, a police breath test showed her well over the limit. (AP)

Rome Jews condemn ex-SS captain

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

IN the former Jewish Ghetto in Rome's old city, the kosher butchers carry posters with a single forceful message: Erich Priebke is guilty.

At the great synagogue on the Tiber embankment, tearful elderly Jewish women who were children during the Second World War have no doubt about Herr Priebke's role during the German occupation. One said: "He may be 83, but what he did cannot be forgotten, or forgiven."

Herr Priebke today appears before a military tribunal charged with war crimes — specifically, the killing of 335 men and boys in March 1944 at the Ardeatine Caves just outside Rome. The formal charge is "multiple murder aggravated by cruelty". The murders were a reprisal for

the ambush of a Nazi patrol by Italian partisans on a Rome street, in which 33 German soldiers died.

Herbert Kappler, the then head of the Gestapo in Rome, ordered ten Italians shot for every dead German. An extra five were shot because of a miscount. Kappler's chief assistant was Herr Priebke, then a young SS captain. He was extradited last autumn from Argentina, where he had lived as a hotelier since escaping from a British PoW camp in Italy in 1948.

Most Italians would prefer to forget the Fascist era and argue that it was an aberration. They point out that Italy surrendered in 1943, and that it was during the subsequent German that the worst excesses were committed. However, Rome's 15,000-strong Jewish community sees things differently. Seventy-five of the Ardeatine Caves victims were Jewish, and the Gestapo deported 2,000 of Rome's Jews to Auschwitz, after pretending to offer them safety if they surrendered their valuables.

When the Chief Rabbi, Elio Toaff, himself 81, suggested last month that Herr Priebke might be sentenced to house arrest rather than prison in view of his age, he was forced to back down after furious protests by Jews. Persecution of the community did not begin with the Gestapo, they pointed out, but rather with the decision by Pope Paul IV in the sixteenth century to herd Jews into the Ghetto and make them wear yellow stars.

On the other hand, there were Catholic priests and Communists among the Ardeatine Caves victims. The war produced an active anti-Fascist resistance movement, which formed the basis of Italian left-wing politics after the war.

The prosecution will argue today that Herr Priebke joined the SS out of conviction, and that he took an active part in drawing up the reprisal lists.

Herr Priebke now claims that he is "sorry for what happened", and hopes the tribunal will accept that the massacre was a "legitimate reprisal" carried out on direct orders from Hitler.

"I've lived all this time with this weighing on my heart," he said recently. "It was a terrible thing, but there was nothing to be done about it."

Pope fêted by Warsaw

Rome: Nearly 18 years after he was elected leader of the Roman Catholic Church, the Pope was finally made an honorary citizen of the capital of his Polish homeland yesterday.

A group of officials from Warsaw bestowed the honour on the Pope, 75, at a ceremony at the Vatican. The pontiff, arguably the most famous living Pole, was born Karol Wojtyla on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, near Krakow.

"This gesture holds particular significance for the Polish Pope, who holds the story of your heroic city deep in his heart," he told the delegation.

The first non-Italian pontiff in some 450 years was elected in 1978. Historians say his influence was a key factor in the fall of Communism in Poland in 1989.

Aznar vows to reform intelligence services

FROM REUTERS IN MADRID

SPAIN'S new conservative Prime Minister, José María Aznar, promised yesterday to reorganise Spain's intelligence services, plagued by scandals including a "dirty war" on Basque rebels and the bugging of King Juan Carlos's telephone.

"We will reform the Cesid," he told a radio interviewer, using the Spanish acronym for the country's principal intelligence service, which is run by the military.

Cesid has been criticised in recent months over a series of high-profile affairs, but was cleared by a judge in February of charges that it breached the law by tapping the mobile-phone conversations of prominent people, including King

Juan Carlos. The service is also at the centre of a legal dispute over a series of papers said to have been the blueprint for a "dirty war" of bombings, kidnappings and murders of presumed members of Eta, the Basque separatist group, in which 27 people were killed from 1983 to 1987.

Three former Civil Guard generals were charged yesterday with involvement in the 1983 murder of an Eta member, state radio said.

The new government, anxious to put its stamp on the economy after 13 years of Socialist rule, also announced a first round of £1 billion spending cuts yesterday to get Spain ready for a European single currency.



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Spymasters select new targets after Cold War

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE agenda for Britain's Secret Intelligence Service operating in Moscow has changed dramatically over the past four decades. Yet there is as much thirst for information today as there was in the 1950s, when the greatest MI6 scoops included acquiring published railway timetables and street maps.

However, the focus has changed. There is no longer a desperate need to seek out covert defence equipment plans because Russia's military-industrial empire is a shadow of its former self.

Today MI6 is more likely to be interested in acquiring secret intelligence material which adds weight to political assessments made by the British Embassy diplomatic staff on key issues such as Russian foreign policy, arms sales and the state of the economy.

MI6's tasks in Moscow are set by the Cabinet Office Joint Intelligence Committee, represented by the heads of MI5, MI6, GCHQ — which is the Government's signals intelligence headquarters — the Defence Intelligence Staff, and officials from government departments, including the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry.

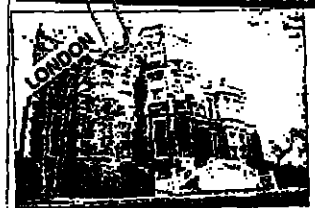
The committee, now chaired by a former senior official from the Northern Ireland Office, lays detailed requirements and tasking on MI6 and GCHQ.

These requirements, a mixture of specific requests for secret intelligence from key government departments, are reviewed annually by the Cabinet Office Intelligence Co-ordinator, now a former senior director from MI5.

Category A intelligence — high priority information — covers such areas as terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The committee has assessed that Russia poses no direct military threat to Britain or Nato, but the Russians still have a formidable strategic capability and the largest conventional armed forces in

A TALE OF TWO EMBASSIES



Ambassador: Anatoli Adamiyehin, appointed September 1994. Aged 56. A former deputy Foreign Minister and ambassador in Rome until 1992; held special brief on Africa in 1993 including attempt to persuade Cuba to withdraw troops from Angola.

Number of diplomats accredited (1995): 45

Senior staff: Guernan Givens, minister counsellor and deputy ambassador; a Georgian who was ambassador to Ireland in 1991; Ivan Zolotov, economic counsellor; Nikolai Tretyakov, trade representative; Aleksandr Prosvirkin, Consul General; Lieutenant General Vyacheslav Pronin, defence attaché.

Intelligence targets: Nato and the state of the British armed forces; Anglo-American defence and intelligence co-operation; economic strategy; British interests in world trouble spots such as the Middle East and the Balkans; aviation and high tech industries; scientific research.

History of spying: Deeply involved in espionage during the Cold War, especially in Stalin's period; recruited and ran Soviet spies in Britain, including the Krogers; active in support of the British Communist Party and of communist trade union activities; main centre for Soviet intelligence in Western Europe until 1971 when 105 diplomats, journalists and trade representatives expelled; KGB espion chief during Andropov's time was Oleg Gordievsky, since defected.



Ambassador: Sir Andrew Wood, Aged 58. Appointed in 1993. Formerly Chief Clerk at Foreign Office, in charge of personnel. Previously served as ambassador to Belgrade. Earlier posted to Washington and Moscow.

Number of diplomats accredited (1995): 80

Senior staff: Andrew Carter, deputy head of mission charged with following Russian political developments, former Russian teacher at Marlborough; Martin Nicholson, minister, a career Russian expert from FCO research department; Air Commodore Phil Wilkinson, defence and air attaché, charged with building up relations with the Russian military; Charles Crawford, head of the political section, soon to be made ambassador to Sarajevo.

Intelligence targets: Penetrate the shadowy world of Kremlin politics, establish the centres of power in Russia today and monitor President Yeltsin's state of health. Assess the capability of Russia's armed forces. Prevent nuclear material from being stolen, smuggled and sold abroad.

History of spying: During the Cold War one of the key British spying missions in the world. In 1958 Sir Geoffrey Harrison retired as ambassador after being caught in a KGB "honeypot" with the embassy maid. Embassy staff routinely expelled in fit-for-test rows in 1971, 1985 and 1988.

Single greatest espionage achievement: smuggling defected KGB spy Oleg Gordievsky out of Moscow and across the border into Finland.

tial "export" of Russian nuclear scientists and engineers to countries such as Iran; the possibility of a continuing biological warfare programme in violation of an international convention; and Russia's military intentions towards its neighbours.

In London, MI6's Russian counterparts, the successors of the KGB and the military agency, the GRU, are likely to be less concerned with Britain's foreign policy than with the old Cold War-style tasks of acquiring intelligence on new weapons projects and advances in high-technology systems.

The greatest achievement for any secret intelligence service is to recruit and nurture an agent working for a sensitive organisation. The rising number of Russian intelligence officers who have been posted to Britain in recent years, either posing as diplomats at the embassy or as trade delegation officials, will undoubtedly be seeking to develop their own network of contacts and agents.

When the Soviet Union collapsed and the Cold War came to an end, the number of Russian intelligence officers from the old KGB reduced dramatically. But the GRU which has not been through the same reforming process as the KGB, stayed on in some force and continued its efforts to acquire Western technology.

These days, of course, they do not have the support of the former formidable intelligence agencies of East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Bulgaria to help them to spy in Britain. These former members of the Warsaw Pact now work with the West and the Russian spies are on their own.

However, the days of the ideological spy have gone. Michael Smith, the electronics engineer sentenced to 25 years in 1993 for spying for the Russians, was the most recent Briton to be caught working for Moscow. He spied for money.

Leading article, page 19



Sir Andrew Wood arrives by car at the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow yesterday

Embassy lifts veil of secrecy

By MICHAEL BUNYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Russian Embassy, a stone's throw from Kensington Palace, is a leaner, trimmer, more sophisticated mission now than it was a decade ago.

It no longer acts for any of the independent former Soviet republics and its diplomats deal with subjects that were of little concern to the Soviet Union, such as privatisation

and economic co-operation. Yet intelligence-gathering remains an important function.

The embassy, once notoriously secretive, now functions more like any large London mission. There are regular receptions and press conferences. A press officer handles inquiries and Russian diplomats are in regular touch with Foreign Office officials. The

embassy is strong on the economic side: it has been a liaison point for Britain's Know How Fund, has organised tours and conferences for Russian businessmen, and reports on British economic issues. Diplomats also cover areas such as Bosnia — where there has been close liaison since the emergence of the Contact Group — the Middle East, and British interests in Eastern Europe, especially the former Soviet republics.

Envoys maintain a stiff upper lip

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

BEHIND the wrought iron gates of the imposing riverside mansion, which houses the British Embassy in Moscow and Ambassador Sir Andrew Wood's residence, life continued almost as normal despite angry exchanges between London and Moscow.

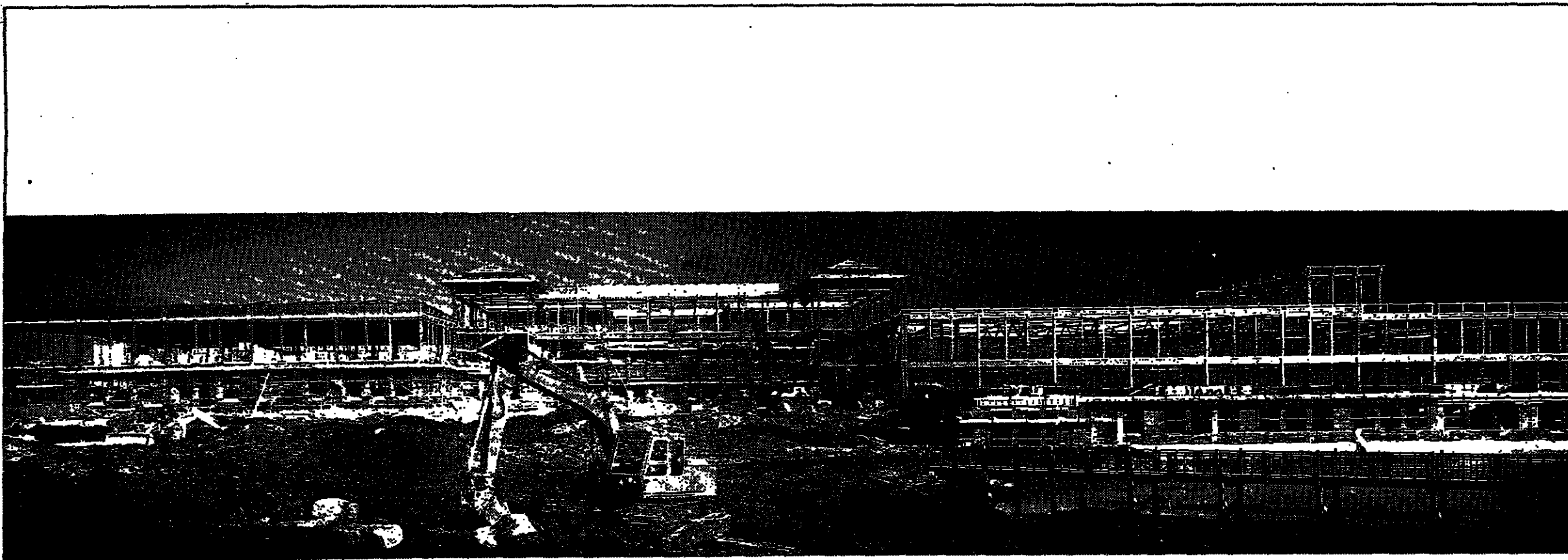
"Our contacts with the Russians have not been affected," James Paver, the embassy spokesman, said. Certainly for a team of senior diplomats and defence attachés, dealings with the Russians yesterday had never seemed better. They were guests of

BRITONS

honour at a Russian military graduation ceremony near Moscow for a retraining scheme funded in part by the Defence Ministry in London.

Other members of the embassy staff also carried on apparently oblivious to the impending showdown. Consular officials processed the huge demand for Russians planning their summer holidays in Britain. The Know How Fund continued to dispense its multimillion-pound aid programme to Russia. Even the social secretaries busied themselves with organising invitations to next month's Queen's Birthday Party.

Nevertheless, behind the façade of normality some confessed that a siege mentality had begun to set in. "There are so many rumours flying around the embassy that it has become very distracting," said one member of the British diplomatic community, who asked not to be named. "The latest rumour is that they will only kick out good Russian speakers."



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Working together to create new horizons

The subtle scent of a woman

Chanel has dominated the perfume market for years. Now it is changing the rules with a new launch



NAEDGE DU BOSPERTUS
28, French, has two-year-old son

CHANEL



DIANE HEIDKRUEGER
19, blonde, blue-eyed German, lives in Paris



LAETITIA CASTA
17, Corsican; started modelling at 15



MAK GILCHRIST
29, British, lives in New York, a model for 12 years



Previous Chanel "faces": teenage singer VANESSA
PARADIS (left) and actress CAROLE BOUQUET



Ever since Marilyn Monroe said that the only thing she wore in bed was Chanel No 5, the fragrance has been one of the biggest-selling perfumes in the world. Five department stores in London — Dickens & Jones, Fenwick's, Harrods, Harvey Nichols and Selfridges — all list Chanel No 5 (which is 75 years old this year) among their top five best-sellers. Over the years it has had few serious rivals.

That may all change at the end of the month with the arrival of Allure, the first new fragrance to be launched in 11 years by the house of... Chanel. Just as designer Karl Lagerfeld, who has created the fashion look of Chanel since 1983, has, at times, turned the image of the grand couturier completely topsy-turvy, so Jacques Polge (the "nose" responsible for Allure) has rethought the composition of the

are aiming at a broader spectrum of women and saying that this fragrance is not for the exclusive few," says Kim Stringer, the executive fashion and beauty director of *Elle* magazine.

Certainly the current trend in the fragrance market is to attract a younger audience with fresher, lighter perfumes which include vanilla in their make-up (this is part of the recipe of Allure). The massive success of Calvin Klein's CKOne unisex scent which was launched last year has provided the beauty business with a new focus — or rather, has prompted it to refocus.

New designer fragrances being launched in America such as Curve by Liz Claiborne and America by Perry Ellis offer one scent for men and one for women in an attempt to relate to the under-thirties. Previously perfumes and aftershaves would have been marketed as either macho or sexy. However, a recent special report in *Women's Wear Daily*, the Seventh Avenue fashion industry newspaper, notes that "the so-called generation X — the target audience for many of the new brands — isn't as obsessed by conquest — sexual, business or otherwise — as

previous generations were". Hence the subtle approach. The message is as subtle as the scent itself. With so many fragrances flooding the market, beauty companies can no longer assume that their glamorous image will be enough to persuade customers to purchase a zillion bottles of the smelly stuff. From the differing looks of the women to the understated style of the photographs — matter-of-fact monochrome portraits — Allure aims to impose no image at all. We will have to wait to see if this understated approach is alluring enough.

CHANEL



KAREN ALEXANDER
30, American, mother of five-year-old Ella



IAIN R. WEBB

perfume. It is accepted that a fragrance is made up of three parts — top notes (fresh), middle notes (fruity) and low notes (woody). As the perfume wears off throughout the day or evening, so each takes its turn teasing the nostrils. Allure does not stick to this rule, but instead combines six elements which overlap and mingle. Each is given equal importance with no one note dominating. It is reminiscent of the powdery sweet smell which wafts through the salons at the couture shows, as the perfumes of some of the most stylish women in the world hang in the air. Sophisticated yet impossible to categorise.

Jacques Helieu, the creative director on the project, has broken the rules with his advertising campaign. Where previously a "face" was chosen to promote a specific fragrance, the new campaign for Allure features eight faces simultaneously. With the exception of cover girl Kirsty Hume the models, photographed by Herb Ritts above, are mostly unknown. A bold move considering the importance of the launch, but one which fits with the prevailing trend in fashion itself: a shift away from dogmatic design statements in favour of choice and personal taste.

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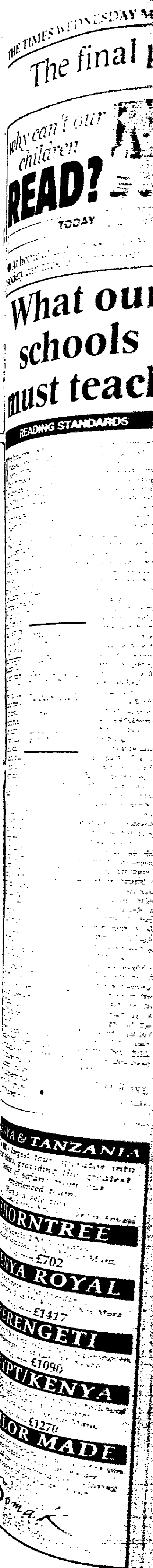
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The final part of our series challenges both parents and teachers

why can't our children READ?



TODAY

● At home and in class — how society can tackle the problem

What our schools must teach

READING STANDARDS

The headlines yesterday focused, inevitably and rightly, on the fact that significant numbers of inner-city children are leaving primary school with reading ages two or more years below their chronological age. The main reason for this is weak teaching.

Inspectors did, however, find good teaching in about a quarter of the lessons they observed. What was going on in these lessons? What is the secret of success in schools where children are making real progress in reading?

The answer is, I am afraid,

banal. There is no magic effort, no radical insight which would transform primary education. Children learn to read in schools where, first, the head teacher places a high emphasis on reading, and regularly monitors the work of teachers, and second, the teachers are clear about what pupils need to know, understand and be able to do to become proficient readers.

But what do children need to be taught? The answer involves a truth which easily becomes a trap for unsuspecting parents trying to find out how a school teaches reading.

The truth is that there is no single method which should be taught. The evidence of inspection and the findings of research suggest that there never will be any simple, fail-safe approach which, if adopted in classrooms across the land, would result in all our children learning to read.

The trap is that this can be used to justify a rushman of methods. No parent should, therefore, simply accept the statement that a school employs a "balanced approach" which integrates, say, the teaching of phonics with the use of "real books".

The question is, how does this integration work? Is there real understanding of how the different approaches must be used in a carefully structured fashion so that children make the best possible progress? Too often, the inspection evi-

dence suggests that the reality of the teaching does not live up to the rhetoric.

It is absolutely clear that children must be taught the letter-sound system of English which is basic to learning how to read and write an alphabetic script. This is what is meant by phonics. In essence, an understanding of phonics means that pupils are able to recognise the 26 letters of the alphabet and are able to combine and recombine them into the sounds which make up the words used in the English language.

Phonics must, of course, be taught well. It should not involve children wasting hours colouring in objects beginning with a particular letter. It must be approached systematically, and the children should appreciate the usefulness of what they are learning.

It must be taught as part of a programme in which children master the conventions of print in which they are encouraged to question, evaluate and respond in depth to what they read; and in which they experience an extensive range of literature that stimulates their imagination.

Good schools do all this. They use time to maximum effect by realising that there is much that can be taught to groups of children working together. They keep brief, useful diagnostic records of each child's progress. As their children become more proficient readers, they teach higher-order reading skills such as information-gathering.

A child who is not taught to read is denied access to all future education and training. Every primary school in the country should examine its approach to the teaching of reading in the light of the Ofsted report. Every parent needs to think once again about the progress their children are making in this most vital of all skills.

JIM ROSE

● The author is Ofsted's Director of Inspection

How we cheat children

SHARING RESPONSIBILITY

One could almost begin to feel sorry for teachers. In all the agonised debate over children's reading problems, barely a column centimetre has been devoted to the parents' role. But how can this be a classroom issue alone?

Children do not go to school until they are five, by which time, with proper help from home, they could well have been reading for a while. This cannot be a negligible point (and I will return to it), though I can see that it should be discounted from the main channel of official discussion: after all, the purpose of state education is to make sure that children are not penalised for the lack of interest of their parents.

But still, that is not the real reason one feels only "almost" sorry for teachers. In smoke-acrid staffrooms in beleaguered inner cities, they might well be muttering that they are being made scapegoats — but not entirely with justification.

What we are hearing now is the loud flapping of hens coming home to roost. Of course there are good teachers but unfortunately most teachers are not good teachers (I remember the sort of people who stayed on after university to do teacher training and I shudder) and it would appear that it is this category which has controlled the educational debate over the past few decades.

These are the ones who have been convinced that articulation is a middle-class imposition; that if children say "arks" instead of "ask", they shouldn't be corrected because to do so would be to impose our value system on to them and, indeed, that any formal instruction in reading and writing is nothing short of intellectual colonialism.

The worst part of this whole ideology — apart from the disastrous effect it has had on pupils — is the dishonesty of it all. Nearly all the teachers who poured scorn on strong educational values were themselves beneficiaries of the 1944 Education Act. They must have known that



Nigella Lawson

one is not shackling a child by teaching it to read, but liberating it.

As I said, it's not fair to blame teachers alone for children's alienation from the written word. There is just as much hypocrisy in the parents' camp. The sort who won't let their children eat sweets or chocolates, lecturing us all on such evils even as they gulp down their mug of instant coffee with two sugars, are much the same as those who never think to open a book themselves but who complain nevertheless about how badly their children are being taught to read at school.

Everything starts in the home, everything, and if parents show no interest in reading, either with their children, or by themselves, they must not be surprised that their offspring are unenthusiastic themselves.

I think you have to work pretty hard to stop a child from wanting to learn how to read. I am constantly amazed at their natural inclination towards books. By the time they are one they are visibly attached to them, want to look at the pictures, want to be read to, want to learn.

This is not just a middle-class phenomenon: all children are programmed to learn, that is their survival mechanism. What does change, though, is how that need is met.

I don't mean here to condone the anxious, aspirational model of parenting.



The ideal way to learn — but too often the family home today is dominated by television and children suffer

The talk of children developing at their own speed is not all phooey. Negligence might not be so great, but nor is too much pushing and shoving. Because so many middle-class parents feel guilty about not spending a great deal of time with their children, they believe that any time they do spend should be full-on.

Thus, the ideal parent is cast as some sort of children's television presenter. All

bounce and zip and zest, cooing enthusiasm and activity. But children need a lot of silence and time sitting peacefully by themselves, too. They may want you there, and often they may want you to read to them and with them. Just as often, they want to sit alone, leaf through some books alone. Or nearly alone: you are required to be there but not to force your presence on them. Few homes can provide

that quiet time, simply because the television is on so much of the time. This affects everyone, not just children. There is scarcely any adult, however well educated, who doesn't confess to being too busy to read much — while still finding time to watch an hour of television at night. Reading has become almost universally downgraded: people talk as if it needed discipline, as if it were an ordeal. Why, then, are we

surprised if children think that reading is a "school thing", a duty to be avoided rather than a pleasure in which to wallow?

It is such a loss: there is no greater moment of liberation and joy for a child than that moment when she realises she has the power to exist in a private world of her own, to escape into it and to explore it. We all have a duty to our children not to deprive them of this.

Better teacher training improves reading skills

RAISING AWARENESS

HAVE reading standards fallen since the late 1980s? Suffolk Education Authority is convinced that they have and that the fall coincided with the introduction of the national curriculum.

The reading tests carried out annually in all its primary schools showed a "systematic decline" for six and eight-year-olds by 1988. The authority was so concerned that in 1990 it instigated a review.

Dr Peter Daw, the authority's English adviser who co-ordinated the review, thinks the introduction of the national curriculum distracted teachers' attention from reading because they had to include more subjects. "But confusion about methodology also contributed. There was a lot of debate about different methods. Some teachers pursued one at the expense of others," he says.

"There is no single successful method. It is important that teachers are flexible and recognise individual differences in children, using a range of methods and strategies."



Children should understand what they read

The review emphasises the importance of children actually understanding what they read. "Phonic knowledge is a definite prerequisite," says Dr Daw. "While the children who had been taught by an almost exclusively phonic approach were over-dependent on sounding out words, those without any phonic under-

standing often had no strategy for tackling unfamiliar words, other than random guessing," says Dr Daw.

The authority started an 18-month training programme based on the results of the review.

In 1992, a second review of the same children showed that standards were improving, probably, says Dr Daw, "because people's awareness was raised, so teaching improved and so did the results."

The authority has continued to monitor reading in primary schools. A small survey in 1994 showed "a much better balance in early reading and reading methods".

In September 1996, the authority will launch its Reading Development Project, which it will fund jointly with the Government. The project will provide support for schools with low overall reading scores to see how standards can be improved.

AMANDA LOOSE

'There is no time to listen'

TEACHING

a small primary school in the North West of England.

"If you are under pressure, then subjects requiring individual attention lose out. It is easier to teach a class, and you can't do class reading lessons."

"When we listened to children daily it showed in their general standard and performance. Children enjoy reading to adults, especially to teachers. Before the national

curriculum, children used to remind their teacher if they hadn't read aloud by the end of the day.

"Now there are repercussions in the junior classes, because children are not learning basic literacy and numeracy adequately. There has been a decline. Some of them are still on reading schemes when they leave at 11. It is very easy for the over-11s to get lost in the system."

Mr Hodgson, a member of the national executive of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, frequently complains to the Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

He says: "It is very frustrating. If we haven't got time to listen to our children read, then no one else will after they leave primary school."

AMANDA LOOSE

CASH THREAT TO A SCHEME THAT WORKS

BIG CLAIMS are made for Reading Recovery, an intensive literacy scheme developed in New Zealand, about its power to rescue children at risk of reading failure. But the high cost of the programme means its future in this country is in doubt. The scheme was developed by Professor Dame Marie Clay from close observation of how children learn to read. It is not a way of teaching a class but a strategy to catch weak readers early.

The scheme was adopted as a nationwide programme in New Zealand in 1984 and first given trials in Britain, in Surrey, five years later. Dame Marie herself trained the first British teachers in the scheme in the early 1990s and more than £10 million of government money was put up for pilot

projects from 1992 to 1995. Central funding was then stopped and it is now up to local education authorities to find the money from their own budgets.

Every six-year-old child taken on to the scheme will receive one-to-one tuition in reading and writing from a specially trained teacher for half-an-hour a day for up to six months. The children do not simply practise words or sounds; they read books and write sentences every day. Angela Holtsbaum, a national co-ordinator of Reading Recovery, says: "It incorporates a bit of the best of everything. Just about every child makes progress with this method."

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Alan Coren



From Cockfosters to Morden, Pam's assets are diminishing

I wonder, do you have any bits of Pamela Anderson at home? An eye, perhaps, a breast, a foot? I do of course realise that this is a silly question, for all manner of reasons — not the least being that if you did have any such bits, you would be unlikely to tell me about it, you would not write in and say, "Yes, glad you asked, I happen to have a finger and an ear" — it is simply that I need to find a way into today's farrago, and I can think of no other, because it is that kind of farrago, it does not have a beginning, a middle, and an end, it just has, well, bits.

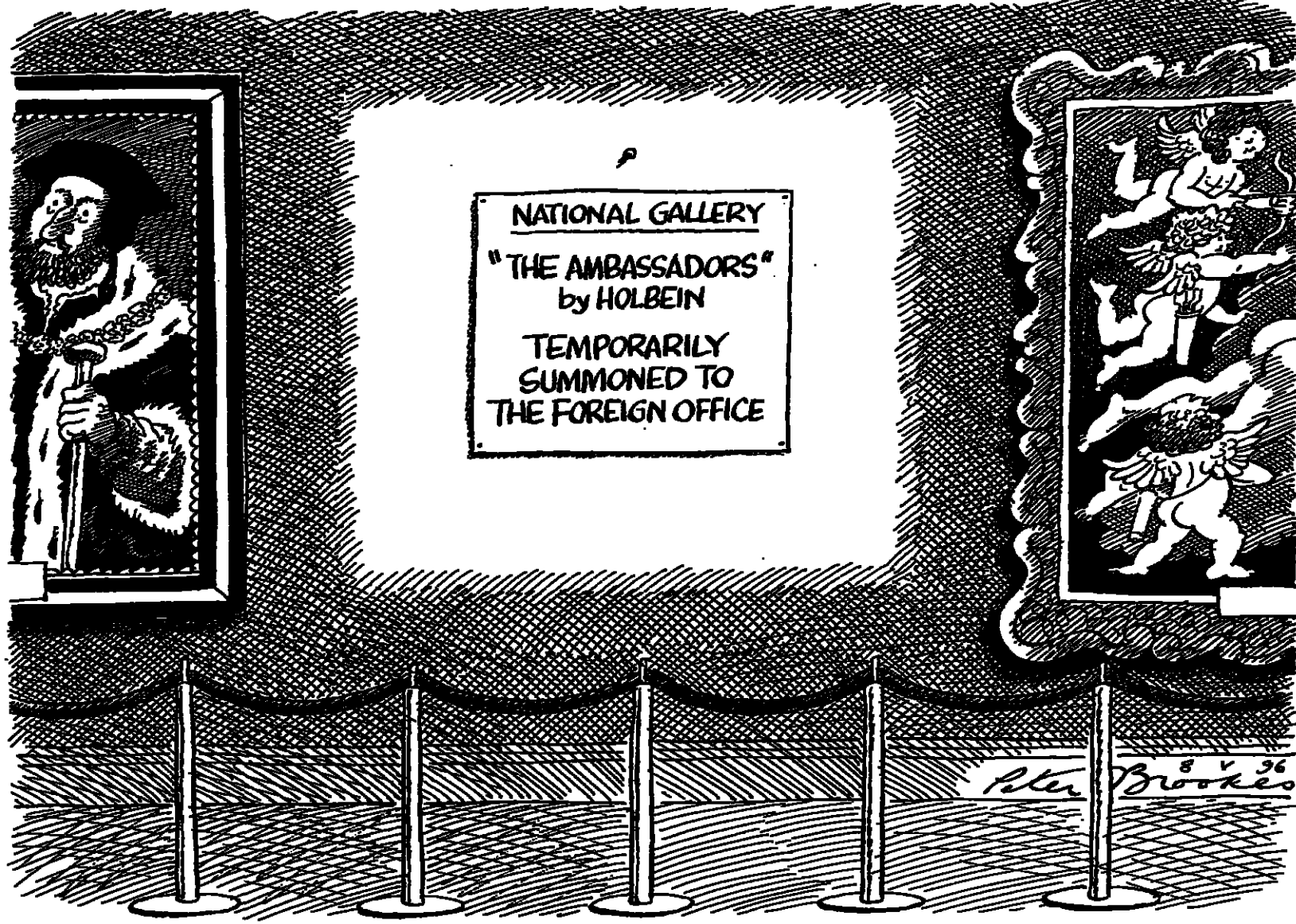
For the fact is that all over London, parts of the great *Baywatch* diva are mysteriously disappearing. Or, rather, all under London, for where they are disappearing from is the hundreds of Tube station posters announcing this week's opening of *Barb Wire*, Miss Anderson's first starring feature film, in which she plays a woman with either one leg or no head, depending on whether you believe the poster beneath Baker Street or the one beneath Kilburn. (You should not on any account believe the one beneath Charing Cross, since according to this she plays a woman with no breasts, a career move which I rather doubt even studio bosses as uncommercial as Hollywood's would encourage.) And do not imagine that those responsible for tearing off Pam's bits travel only the Jubilee Line: the above examples are merely those I have personally observed, but my wider research reveals that countless similar crimes have been perpetrated throughout the system: how the suburban commuters where you will, from Cockfosters to Morden, from Uxbridge to Theydon Bois, you will find they-faced informants ready to express their shock and distress at seeing as little as a third of Miss Anderson left standing.

Why? There are, it appears, no simple answers. Even the experts are divided: according to London Transport Publicity, the defacements (as numerous and as widespread as any in their memory) are for the most part assorted political, a conclusion induced by their observation of graffiti which sometimes accompany the knife-work and seem to bespeak the attentions of militants as various (and, normally, as mutually hostile) as religious fundamentalists, radical feminists, back-to-basics, and phallic-centric drunks, plus (this is now me, mind, and only guessing) a sporadic sprinkling of less corporate complaints from the bosomly challenged, out-of-work actors, members of the Broadcasting Standards Council, sociopathic misogynists, and even, if Finchley Road is anything to go by, music lovers enraged that Pamela's thighs have been pasted over information concerning open-air concerts at Kenwood.

But if you then phone British Transport Police, you get, to a descendant of laddish chording, the altogether different interpretation that these excisions are not attacks motivated by rage at all, but reverences motivated by infatuation: in besotted men are tearing bits of Pamela off and carrying them home for repasting to their domestic premises. This, Tubeplod continued confidently, could well explain the unprecedented extent of the ravages: given the tenacity of modern gum designed to thwart wholesale removal, it was quite possible that Pamela was not suffering at the hands of many men snatching one or two fragments, but one or two men snatching many, in the hope of finally rebuilding their beloved in toto. Why else, he went on, would anyone take an elbow, something he had personally noticed only that morning?

The truth probably embraces, it generally does, a bit of everything. To offer us the proposition that Pamela Anderson — emblem, icon, symbol, little cracker, what you will, an artefact put together by the diverse hands of natural parents, plastic surgeons, orthodontists, wigmakers, cosmeticians, voice coaches, couturiers, agents, and hucksters of every sort and condition to be one very simple thing — is now, it seems, being taken apart by hands even more diverse as the result of having become, willy-nilly, one very complicated thing.

It may well be that there is some sort of major message in all this, but I doubt that pursuing it will make us any happier. Unlike the minor message, which is to stay off Tubes for a bit. Out of sight, out of mind.



Too timid to delegate

The age of the region is upon us and Europe is leading the way. But the Tories in Britain have yet to notice

One thing was sure about the ending of the Iron Curtain in 1989. It would not mean the end of the Iron Curtain. I recall the remark of an elderly German a week after the Berlin Wall's demise. We stood by the Brandenburg Gate watching youngsters breaking up pieces out of the wall to sell to tourists. "If only it were that easy," he said. "If only."

Last weekend, the electors of the former East German state of Brandenburg refused to merge with Berlin in a new German region planned by Bonn. The distaste of the Brandenburgers for anything to do with Berlin was compounded by an aversion to edicts from what they still see as the former West German Government. That Government wished to reduce the number of *Länder* in Germany by half, a wish now sabotaged. The Democratic Socialists (formerly Communists) were the only party to oppose the merger. They have declared the vote a triumph.

Walls of stone can be demolished and their creators can be declared defunct. Walls of the mind cannot be so easily erased. Nor can half a century of European history. The German Constitution may be a model of devolution, but for the states of former East Germany, it is not devolved enough. The Brandenburgers have spoken, and wisely their view will be respected. Britons might ponder that nobody thought to ask Scotland's opinion when London curiously reorganised its local government last year. As with the poll tax, the Scots must do what they are told by the English. Braveheart Wallace wins the Oscars, but he was thrashed by the English 700 years ago, and to John Major it might as well be yesterday.

If supra-nationalism is the obsession of today's European politicians, sub-nationalism will be the obsession of tomorrow. Those who lived through the Second World War have spent 50 years searching for a glue to hold together the combatants. Their political grandchildren see things differently. Across Europe they are drawing strength from the vitality of sub-national regions. They feed on public hatred of the central bureaucracies that rampaged across their countries in the 1970s and 1980s. Europe's next Reformation will be based not on Delors federalism but on a resurgence of the province, the region, the *département* and the *Land*.

Everywhere the worm is turning. Since last month's Italian election, one topic alone has dominated Rome poli-

tics. It is not European monetary union, or corruption, nor the question of whether former Prime Ministers Andreotti, Craxi and Berlusconi will go to prison. The dominant topic is how to appease northern separatism. The Lombard League is easy to satirise. Its leader, Umberto Bossi, is derided as ugly, vulgar, populist and uneducated — leadership qualities that have long contrived to surprise and destabilise Europe's political class. At the weekend, Bossi summoned his regional parliament in Mantua and called for the "Czechoslovakia option", a new border along the Apennines and an end to the subsidies that pour south from Milan and Bologna to Rome and Naples.

This is a popular cry. Italy's politicians may deplore Bossi, but they do not underestimate his appeal. They will almost certainly extend to the northern regions the "special status" already granted to Sicily, Sardinia and three Alpine provinces. This status includes a measure of political and economic autonomy and retention of a share of national taxes.

Italy and Germany are not alone. This is proving a glorious spring for devolutionists. At the weekend, Spain's new conservative Government negotiated further autonomy, including tax-raising powers, with Catalan and Basque leaders. The Spanish Constitution allows a province to vote itself variable devolution, and Catalans and Basques have made full use of this right. The power to raise income tax is rarely used — Scots Tories might note — because regions prefer other forms of revenue. They prefer not to commit electoral suicide.

Modern Spain is a federalist patchwork, with Galicia and Andalusia also quasi-autonomous. The country has not fallen apart or seen its national identity threatened, quite the opposite. As in Italy and Germany, subsidiarity has become the key to national unity. It is a

form of constitutional reform that keeps governments strong and separatists at bay. It is a democratic safety-valve and a check on the aggrandisement of big government. Similar devolution was instituted in France in 1982.

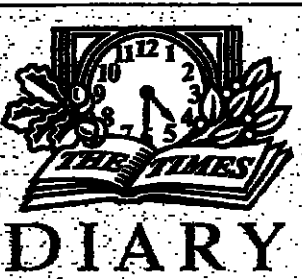
British political opinion, notably in the present Cabinet, takes precisely the opposite view. It contrives to believe both that the United Kingdom is immune from these centrifugal forces and, paradoxically, that it is so vulnerable to them that it must stamp on the slightest murmur from the Celtic fringe. Devolution is dismissed as what weak foreigners do to hang on to power and stop their countries imploding.

This ideology has bizarre implications. On this page yesterday the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, repeated the cliché that the "Conservative Party is a national party or it is nothing". Did he mean centralist/nationalist, or merely national? I doubt if he knew. Perhaps he was acknowledging that the party has been all but eliminated from sub-national politics in the United Kingdom. There cannot be a ruling group in the democratic world with so little local electoral support.

In what other states would acknowledge as subsidiary regions, this is even more so. At the next election the Conservatives are unlikely to hold more than half a dozen seats in Scotland and Wales. In Northern Ireland they cannot even bring themselves to fight an election, despite proclaiming Tory Unionism. The people of Ulster are thus denied any opportunity to vote for or against the party that rules them — or even a party allied to the party that rules them. This crude suspension of normal democracy has continued for a quarter of a century.

In three of the four components of the United Kingdom, the next general election will be fought with regionalism to

Simon Jenkins



Grid has to go," said Paul Spring, a manager in the restaurant, "then it is so."

Meanwhile, the Grid's old leather furnishings are gathering dust in a warehouse outside Oxford, or else adorning the rooms of Maurice Keen, the pipe-smoking Balliol history don in charge of the club.

Rum do

GRAHAM DAVIES — barrister and joke-writer to Kenneth Clarke and Peter Lilley — felt like a character in a Bateman drawing the other day: the man who asked for a rum-and-Coke in the Carlton Club. He was rebuked by the barman. "He looked me up and down and said, 'we don't have any rum, sir, but you may like to try upstairs where ladies are served,'" says Davies.

"The barman upstairs didn't bat an eyelid when I asked him. It's odd because I go to the Carlton once or twice a year, but I've never had aspirations cast over my choice of drink before."

Liberal Democrats in Conway, North Wales, have established their new HQ in a former ladies' lavatory on the beach. It adjoins a café, the owner of which, finding the palatial WC superfluous, converted it and offered it to a grateful party. The local organiser, Dr Jonathan Wallace, is delighted, saying: "It's much more convenient."

Write on

LATEST recruit to the ranks of the press is the model Laura Bailey, 24. Richard Gere's former girlfriend, Miss Bailey is writing a New York diary for Condé Nast's new Internet site.

Such literary endeavour may help to appease her father, an Oxford law don who was said to be mighty unhappy when his daughter forsook a promising career in academia for the life of a car-walk flibbertigibbet.

Miss Bailey's writing style, as she glides through New York's cultural traffic, is heavy going. It's a curious mix of bathroom angst, doctoral thesis and beat poetry.



Bailey: law unto herself

"The entire crowd were mesmerised," she writes of a Van Morrison concert, "as each of the band echoed his every breath, improvising a kind of primal dialogue with a thousand times the eloquence of words alone... The silence was deafening in our cab downtown as we travelled lost in dreams. The healing has begun."

P.H.S

Welfare must pay its way

Labour's plans do not go far enough, says Frank Field

In his lecture yesterday on social justice, Chris Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, set out the values Labour will bring to reforming welfare. Labour is at long last moving away from viewing welfare as a passive service, in which individuals simply receive and the rest of us quietly forget about them. Citizens under a Labour government will be required to put in the "proper effort" to get back to work.

Only when we see the detailed policies will we know what is in Mr Smith's mind in this respect. The danger is that he will be enticed into proposing once again mere sectional policies. Until now, all anti-poverty strategies have been designed and controlled from the centre, deciding which single mothers can participate and which long-term unemployed will be eligible. This is "old" Labour writ large. The hour demands a totally new approach.

The aim must be to liberate all income support claimants. The party should commit itself to turning income support from a passive agency, paying benefits, and checking occasionally on fraud, into an active body. All able-bodied claimants should be expected to draw up plans for what they want to do with the rest of their lives. Income support payments should then be used to help them to achieve these objectives.

Labour should be proposing nothing short of ways to allow claimants to create thousands of exits from poverty for themselves. Labour must reject the paternalism of its past in favour of a belief in the power of the poor when they seek their own self-improvement.

It is also crucial that the detailed proposals embody a belief that welfare is no longer a passive agent. Means tests, for example, help to determine our characters. Means tests penalise work, tax savings, and place a penalty on honesty. Labour needs to commit itself to reducing the size of the means-tested welfare state.

So how can this be achieved? In part it must be done by introducing a new social insurance scheme, as Mr Smith said in his speech yesterday. Since 1979, the Tories have raised contributions by £27 billion, but cut levels of benefit or abolished them altogether. Is Labour going to set up a new scheme run by contributors themselves rather than by politicians? This is surely a positive way of helping to create a new sense of social cohesion, an aim which Mr Smith rightly emphasised in his speech.

And will the Labour Party be proposing a clear social insurance alternative to the plans the Government announced yesterday on long-term care? Practically all of us live long enough to retire. Hence all of us must be required to save towards our retirement income.

Only one in five of us, however, requires long-term residential care. Hence the opportunity to discuss with voters a new national insurance scheme — again run by the contributors themselves. Risks would be shared, and as the scheme would be compulsory, those who believe in freewheeling through life and landing the costs on the rest of us will be compelled to pay.

Such a policy will make a reality of Labour's commitment to support those who work hard, those who save, and those who are honest. Under the present system, anybody who is foolish enough to do any of those three things is penalised. It is in the detail of new policy that Labour will be able to show which values it actively supports, and to contrast its stance with that of the present Government.

Chris Smith's comments on a proper partnership between the public and private sector are also to be welcomed, particularly in respect to pensions. But the policy statements that we are promised will need to go further than the hints so far suggest. The dominant theme of yesterday's lecture was how to prevent social exclusion. What does this overarching objective mean in respect to pensions?

Will everyone be required to save towards a second pension, which will run in addition to the state retirement pension? And will contributions for those outside the labour market be paid for by taxpayers? If they are, there will be costs to pay, and the scheme will entail redistribution, but that is the price politicians must pay if policies to counter-exclusion are to be effective.

Taking tough decisions is sensible only if they are right. Cutting welfare is only a proper objective for Labour if it follows from implementing the right policies. Labour must also face up to the scale of fraud in the current system. The Social Security Select Committee will next week be publishing a report on the extent of housing benefit fraud. During its inquiry, evidence came to light on just how widespread is the practice of working full-time while also claiming a panoply of benefits, often using several National Insurance numbers. This is serious, organised fraud on a scale which most people have failed to comprehend.

I believe that if a future Labour government were determined to tackle fraud — by landlords, claimants and gangs — there could be such benefit savings that it would be possible to introduce within the current budget a major restructuring of welfare. Within that framework we could expect to see the social security budget controlled for the first time.

Frank Field, MP, chairs the Social Security Select Committee.

Ay ay, spies

SPOOKS around the world are packing their low-brimmed hats and holsters to attend the funeral of William Colby, the highly controversial former CIA chief who was found dead near his home on Monday.

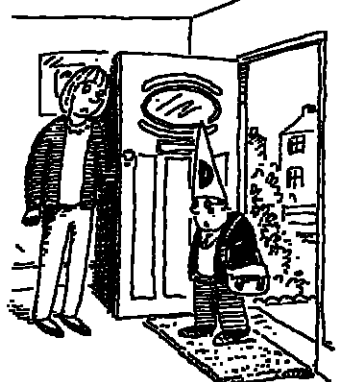
Such momentous espionage gatherings are relished by players of the great game, for whom every word of each other. A lot of it has to do with trying to add mystique to their profession.

According to Chapman Pincher, the author of several books on the secret services, "Spies never give their names to reporters at colleagues' funerals, and become very upset if anyone tries to take their photograph."

Over at the CIA, a spooksmen said Colby's funeral would be "less cloak-and-daggerish than if he had died in office", but

still marked "high security". Oleg Kalugin, a former KGB general who attended Philby's funeral in Moscow, along with 200 Soviet intelligence agents, met Colby at a security conference five years ago. The two old enemies collaborated on a computer game called "The Spy Craft".

"I shall probably be the only Russian to attend his funeral," says Kalugin, adding to the murky scenario. "If anyone turned up



"We had traditional methods today"

from the Russian Embassy, I would not recognise them, and if I did, I certainly wouldn't talk to them."

After the Oscar success of his film *Braveheart*, Mel Gibson has moved on to less blood-soaked terrain. His production company is making a film about the Cottingley Fairies, the hoax photographs of gossamer-winged Yorkshire sprites which fooled Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Gibson, who was *hanged, drawn and quartered* at the end of his Scottish epigone, will not be wearing tutu and wand for the film.

Gridlocked

OXFORD University's Gridiron Club is set to be thrown out of its premises above a pizza restaurant. The days when the Grid, one of Oxford's oldest drinking clubs, held court in a succession of noble townhouses, serving proper meaty lunches and providing a haven for public-school swells, are gone.

In recent years, the club has rented digs above Pizza Express in the centre of town. A series of drunken encounters between members and pizzerias, however, have led to a weariness on the part of the landlords. "If people in the university say the

هكذا من الأصل



THE NEED TO KNOW

There is much in Zyuganov's plans that merit espionage

Russia's allegations against British diplomats in Moscow have had an unintended byproduct. By drawing attention to how little is known about who is really in charge of the Russian political, intelligence and military machines, the authorities have bolstered the case for more active intelligence-gathering, whether overt or covert.

The new broom at the Russian Federal Security Bureau, the successor to the KGB, is Mikhail Barsukov, one of President Yeltsin's closest aides. Yet he has done Mr Yeltsin no favours in this affair. These spying charges will cost the Russian President much more internationally than he stands to gain at home. Practical programmes, like last month's agreement at the nuclear summit in Moscow to increase intelligence co-operation against illicit Russian nuclear trading, are also at risk.

The prize for idiocy in this affair goes, however, not to Moscow but to Harry Cohen, the Labour MP who yesterday called on the Government "to stop this James Bond silliness and apologise to Mr Yeltsin". In Mr Yeltsin's Russia secretiveness still surrounds the management of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons stockpiles, nuclear installations, the workings of organised crime syndicates and attitudes within its powerful military. Even more to the point is the possible victory of Gennadi Zyuganov in the presidential elections due next month. Mr Cohen may accept at face value the image of sober-sided social democrat which Mr Zyuganov has been out to project to the West. No intelligence agency worth the name would be so culpably innocent.

Mr Zyuganov's hero is Stalin; his idea of a successful foreign policy is Russia's crushing of the Prague Spring in 1968; and his attitude to dissent can be gauged from his warm sympathy for China's handling of the Tiananmen democracy protests. His copious published works accuse the US, the UN and

International Monetary Fund, the Roman Catholic Church and even the Trilateral Commission of leading a "mondialist" Western conspiracy to destroy Russia's greatness. He presents the new Communist Party which he heads as the force that can restore the "global balance" of the Brezhnev years under the banner of "collectivism, unity and statehood", rebuild the Soviet empire and triumph over the "corrupted West". Mr Zyuganov is a "new" communist only in the sense that he has grafted a national socialist creed onto his belief in an autarkic "mixed" economy. He sees a Russia shut off from the global markets which make it dependent on "external factors", a Russia in which the State would again control the levers that matter.

Western analysts still describe Mr Zyuganov as the relatively "acceptable" face of the coalition of "popular-patriotic forces" that he heads. Behind him are subtler, and more sinister, political operators. Some of his rhetoric may be opportunistic, a deliberate pitch for the votes of millions of career apparatchiks and impoverished Russians who have come to equate communism with a lost stability. But the fear must be that if he wins, the new communists could turn out even worse than the Bourbons — having forgotten nothing, but having learnt a little — mainly about how to prevent a repetition of the collapse of Soviet communism in 1991.

A Zyuganov government that set out to turn back the economic clock would probably fail: there are plenty of powerful members of the old nomenklatura, turned entrepreneurs, who would put up stout resistance. But in the struggle, Russia's transformation into a "normal country" could still be set back by years; and its relations with the West would seriously deteriorate. Seen through the eyes of the intelligence community, now is not too soon to get their "assets" in place.

A TALE OF TWO SMITHS

Labour has come a long way on welfare reform

Only four years ago, Mr Smith, a senior Shadow Cabinet member, made the centrepiece of his party's manifesto a promise to spend more on benefits. Now another Mr Smith, Shadow Social Security Secretary, boasts that the less spent on welfare, the better. John Smith, the welfare spender, was on the Right of the party; Chris Smith, the saver, is on the soft Left. But the difference is that, while John was archetypal "old" Labour, Chris is shiny "new".

It is a sign of how far Tony Blair has taken his party that what might once have passed as heresy has now become conventional wisdom. New Labour does not intend to address poverty by putting a few extra pounds into claimants' pockets. The stated aim instead is to convert dependence on the State to independence through work. Labour has gone full circle. As in 1945, its leaders now agree that those who claim benefits have a responsibility to seek work. As Mr Smith said yesterday, the citizen must make "proper efforts to reach out beyond welfare and back into work".

The new Mr Smith is also revolutionary (in Labour terms, at least) in his admission that the State need not be the monopoly provider of benefits. Indeed, as he says, there are serious disadvantages in some areas of relying upon the State. Under the "pay-as-you-go" pension system, today's generation of twenty and thirtysomethings will find themselves paying pensions for their parents' generation while receiving virtually nothing from the State when they themselves finish work.

So is there now a consensus between the two main parties on the welfare state? Broadly, though you might not have thought

so yesterday as Harriet Harman, Shadow Health Secretary, berated Stephen Dorrell for his proposals on residential care. Like Mr Smith, Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, wants to encourage claimants to move off benefits and into work. The difficulty is that such policies are expensive.

In one area, though, Mr Smith may be able to mark out new territory. Conservatives have a problem with forcing people to save, whether for retirement at home or for residential care. Apart from the small element of compulsion that accompanies the state earnings-related pension scheme, Tories prefer such saving to be voluntary, encouraged by tax breaks. The trouble comes because frugal old people are then penalised and the improvident are rewarded: a means test ensures that those with no savings can claim income support and have the costs of residential care met by the State. Those who have saved money have to spend most of it before the State steps in. This acts as a strong disincentive to thrift.

Mr Dorrell attempted yesterday to mitigate this effect by protecting more assets for those who insure themselves against the costs of care. But this approach is expensive for the taxpayer. Labour could more easily propose compulsory saving or insurance for old age, which would ensure that the prodigal would not benefit at the expense of the frugal, and the State would actually save money. While the payments might feel like a tax, they would have the virtue of guaranteeing provision for each individual in later life, unlike the unreliable "pay-as-you-go" pensions. All citizens would then own their pensions and insurance policies — a key part of their pass to a stakeholder society.

DEAR SIR GORDON

A letter to the Parliamentary Ombudsman goes astray

Many thanks for your kind letter dated last July 3rd. I hope you will forgive my delay in replying. The trip to the Dominican Republic's Department of Tourism and Tobacco in my capacity as chairman of the all-party Anglo-Caribbean group overran somewhat owing to that incident with the limbo dancer and a petit corona.

You ask a number of questions with regard to my entry to the Register of Members' Interests. I am very glad you ask these questions, because it gives me an opportunity to clear up any lingering misunderstanding about the confusion between my role as Member for (Mrs Innes-Fleming's fill in) and the 12 directorships, 17 consultancies and 43 foreign trips I have accepted this year in an effort to keep afloat (surely abreast? Mrs I-F).

Firstly, you inquire why I do not register the remuneration received as a director of East Wessex Water. My understanding of the new rules following the Nolan Report is that earnings need only be included if the money was received as a result of work undertaken which sprang directly from one's position as an MP. My seat on the EWW board has nothing to do with my seat in the Commons.

I was appointed on the basis of my extensive knowledge of matters aquatic, not least an honourable C in O-level chemistry and membership of the Royal Yacht Squadron. The offer to join the board did come, as you point out, three days after I had left my post in the Department of the Environment

as Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Privatisation but the implication that the two are related is monstrous.

Secondly, the suggestion that I should reveal "a little more" about my family holiday in the Gulf State of Alibaba is an ugly intrusion into my personal affairs. It is correct I was Minister of Arms Sales at that point but I was a private guest of my old friend Sheikh Rantal an-Rhol whom I first met at Harrow long before his rise to Supreme Commander of the Armies of the Revolutionary Jihad in that picturesque principality. Our relationship is an old and intimate one, which predates my political career, as attested by his long presence on the board of my Tinned Fruit-to-Tommy Gun trading conglomerate Hollyhock. The notion that there was anything sordidly commercial, let alone political about the trip is an horrid slur on a loyal customer (surely ally? Mrs I-F) of this company (surely country? Mrs I-F).

Thirdly, your inquiry about the fee I earn as a consultant to Westminster Lobbying Plc is a vulgar impertinence. You allude to the company's advertising material and the claim "If you've got the cash, you'll get an amendment in a flash", and my good friend John Major's comment that Parliament should not be reduced to a "hiring-fair". May I reassure you that I am not retained by Westlob because I am an MP but because, as a former editor of Bagehot's works I am a constitutional expert. Hope this helps, with all good wishes, Yours, etc.

Labour view on security service

From Mr Alan Michael, JP, MP for Cardiff South and Penarth (Labour)

Sir, Your reports of May 6 and 7 on the Government's Security Service Bill do not refer to the need for a proper structure of accountability if we are to fight organised crime effectively.

As drafted, the Bill would have allowed the head of M15 to decide when to undertake investigations into serious crime. However, as a result of Labour suggestions and debate in committee, the chief constable who heads the National Criminal Investigation Service (NCIS) will now be the "guardian at the gate"; M15 can act only if called in by the police, and the security service must then act only in support of specific police inquiries.

The real flaw in the Bill is the curious position of NCIS. In theory this body is accountable to the Home Secretary: in practice this is almost meaningless. Even the Home Secretary now accepts the need for a body to which NCIS should report. This body, I believe, should include representatives of chief police officers and of local police authorities, thus tying national police work back into the systems and accountability of local police activity.

It is only common sense for NCIS and the proposed national crime squad to be headed by different individuals: their purpose and functions are different, and the crime squad will be one "customer" among many for NCIS. However, having one body to which they both report is the only way to make accountability simple and coherent at a national level.

It is equally important that both heads should have served as chief police officers prior to appointment. Most crime is local in nature, and success in combating it is most frequently achieved where the targeted activity of police is combined with close cooperation with local councils and local communities.

The Government chose not to take up our offer of helping to speed through legislation in this session. They will lose credibility unless they promise to bring forward a Bill this autumn setting up a police authority for both NCIS and the national crime squad.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN MICHAEL
(Shadow Minister for Home Affairs),
House of Commons,
May 6.

Paying for transport

From the Director of Policy, the Automobile Association

Sir, You rightly criticise the Government's transport Green Paper for shying away from a coherent system of paying for transport (leading article, April 26).

Last year, the Department of Transport reported that our country's roads were in a worse state than 20 years before. At the same time some local authorities were spending more on compensation for injuries from broken pavements than on maintaining them.

Efficient capital maintenance needs stable long-term finance, not the short-termism that results from the annual public expenditure round.

Three years ago Parliament stopped being told what was raised from road taxation and how much was spent on roads because the Government deemed the accounting "flawed". No new reporting system has yet been put in place.

The Citizen's Charter should allow us to see what we pay, and those who are responsible for managing one of the nation's major assets should be accountable.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN DAWSON,
Director of Policy,
The Automobile Association,
Norfolk House, Priestley Road,
Basingstoke, Hampshire,
April 27.

Lawful bullets

From the Editor of Stalking Magazine

Sir, In his report "Clown prince" is no joke" (Amsterdam file, May 4) Roger Boyes makes two disparaging references to the alleged use of "dumdum" bullets by Crown Prince Willem Alexander while he was hunting at Apeldoorn in The Netherlands.

In England and Wales, the Deer Act 1963 requires that deer be shot using a soft-nosed or hollow-nosed bullet (in Scottish law the term expanding bullets is used) — in layman's terms, "dumdum" bullets.

Virtually every civilised country in the world requires, by law, larger game to be shot with such bullets, on compassionate grounds. This is certainly the case throughout the EU.

Thus, the Crown Prince is being accused of not breaking the laws of the Netherlands. It seems that the press find fault with royalty whatever it does.

Yours etc,
CHRISTOPHER BORTHEN,
Editor,
Stalking Magazine,
48 Queen Street, Exeter, Devon,
May 6.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Custody implications of Sifiso ruling

From Mr Phillip Taylor

Sir, Your leader, "Solomon's child" (May 6), rightly identifies the judicial dilemma facing any adjudicator tasked with deciding who should have custody of Sifiso Mahlangu. However, you let the interpreters of the Children Act off lightly when you highlight this boy's inability to put his own case in person to the courts.

Many who watched the passage of the Children Act in 1989 thought a new dawn had broken. We reckoned without the vagaries of the Court of Appeal. It is difficult to understand in an enlightened England why, when a child's short-term future at a critical age is in issue, he is unable to express his own preference in person to those deciding his future.

It is not good enough in cases such as these for the judiciary to fob distressed clients off by saying that the child cannot be seen in person and that the court has no discretion. As we approach the 21st century this attitude still seems to smack of 19th-century justice.

Yours faithfully,
PHILLIP TAYLOR,
Richmond Green Chambers,
Greyhound House,
23-24 George Street,
Richmond-upon-Thames, Surrey,
May 6.

From Mr Barry N. Speker

Sir, The heart-rending case of Sifiso Mahlangu highlights long overdue changes needed in our adoption law. Proposals set out in the Adoption Bill published in March 1996, following an eight-year review of adoption law, may help to make further such cases unnecessary.

Although under the Children Act

1989 the welfare of the child is the paramount consideration in cases affecting children, this is still not the guiding principle under the Adoption Act 1976. The new Bill proposes to introduce the concept of paramountcy into English adoption law.

It also sets out a formal structure for inter-country adoption. Such adoptions are not presently regulated in current adoption law and practice.

The proposed new placement order would enable the issues of whether the intended adoption is in the interests of the child, and whether the natural parents have consented or their agreement should be dispensed with, to be dealt with at the outset. This should prevent cases like that of Sifiso where a child is ordered to be removed long after he has become part of a new family.

The Government's White Paper, *Adoption — The Future*, stated that political correctness should have no place in adoption. The new Bill intends to establish this aim. Sifiso's case carries more than a hint of such political correctness.

I wonder, finally, if the Court of Appeal's refusal to delay implementation of Sifiso's return to South Africa until the case had been considered by the European courts, was a reaction by the judges to numerous recent cases where the European courts have overridden long-established principles of English statutes and case law? If this were the case, it cannot be just that Sifiso should be the sacrifice.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY N. SPEKER,
Samuel Phillips & Co (solicitors),
86 Pilgrim Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
May 7.

Labour's tax plans

From Mr J. V. Wilson, FCA

Sir, I believe that there are some policies which the Labour Party could announce now quite safely, which would bring them further support (letters, April 30). These are:

1. A commitment to set up one or more task force immediately after winning the election whose job would be to prepare detailed recommendations for the complete overhaul and simplification of our present tax system, including VAT.

Members of these task forces would comprise experts from the Treasury, Inland Revenue, HM Customs and the accountancy, law and tax professions, and would be required to report back within a maximum period of two years.

They would be asked in particular to look at combining national insurance contributions with income tax, changing the tax year end from April 5 to March 31, and the use of modern technology for the assessment and collection of tax and the prevention of tax avoidance.

2. A commitment not to make any changes to the present tax system un-

til the task forces' recommendations have been put into effect.

3. An undertaking that the legislation implementing the new tax system would be written in clear, understandable English.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILSON,
Broadside,
Limpfield Chart, Oxford, Surrey,
May 5.

From Mrs Sonia Gable

Sir, Roger Brice (letter, April 27) is mistaken if he believes that the abolition of child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds will result in parents depriving unemployed youngsters of a roof over their heads.

Child benefit for this age group is paid only where the child is in full-time education and not to the parents of the unemployed youths about whom Mr Brice is concerned in the course of his legal practice in the criminal courts.

Yours faithfully,
SONIA GABLE
(Tax consultant),
49 Herent Drive,
Clayhall, Ilford, Essex,
April 29.

Mad writers

From Mr Ian Wordsworth

Sir, Research by Dr Felix Post (report, May 1) has led him to deduce that, as your picture caption puts it, "there is a strong link between madness and creative writing" and to put poets less at risk.

He could have saved himself from reinventing the wheel. As the poet John Dryden observed 300 years ago: Great wits are sure to madness near allied And thin partitions do their bounds divide (Absalom and Achitophel).

Yours faithfully,
IAN WORDSWORTH,
Thompson's Oast,
Hartlake Road,
Golden Green, Tonbridge, Kent,
May 2.

Dainty dish

From Mr R. H. Wynands

Sir, With reference to your correspondence on rats being eaten during the 1870 siege of Paris (letters, May 2, 7), my grandmother was trapped in the siege, and I well remember her telling me, as a very young boy, to finish the skin off my rice pudding as it was tastier than stewed rat.

Sadly her first husband was shot during the siege for breaking a curfew whilst seeking food.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD H. WYNANDS,
2 Cane End,
Princes Risborough,
Buckinghamshire,
May 7.

From Mr J. C. Pagler

Sir, As an RAF survival instructor 25 years ago I was myself taught that if something moved it was potentially edible, regardless of whether it had legs or not.

The only rule of thumb was if it looks good try a little and if there are no ill effects, try a larger quantity cooked in the same manner.

Sincerely,
JOHN PAGLER,
14 Woodgreen Close,
Llantwit Major,
South Glamorgan,
May 7.

Memorials for the common man

From the Director of the National Funerals College

Sir, I confess the temptation to scan your accounts of memorial services to spot the stars (Mr Christian's letter, May 6). Yet memorial services play far more serious roles.

Their immediate value is the provision, for all sorts of people with full diaries, of an opportunity to pay public respect to those who have died and to acknowledge their contribution to wider communities. In allowing time and space for the dead, they emphasise the role of death in enforcing the prioritisation of values and relationships in a mortally limited life. They testify that death is never a private act and that bereavement, whilst individual, should never go unsupported.

The memorial services criticised by Mr Christian are those which reflect only on the individual biography of the departed and which omit their common future destination and its religious interpretation. These are at one extreme end of the range of rituals which mark a death.

At the other must come those funeral services which are so excessively orientated to the after-life that no acknowledgement is paid either to the achievements and beliefs of the departed, or to the needs of those most intimately bereaved or to the devotion of those who nursed them.

In the middle of the range come those rituals for the majority of the population whose hidden lives and slighter chances bear no comparison with the stars. For this majority, quieter and more localised memorial services are sometimes provided, both at churches and, increasingly, at crematoria (where 70 per cent of us take our leave). Annual memorial services at crematoria seem to give great satisfaction to those bereaved who attend, sometimes drawing four-figure congregations.

Yet even these provisions are not without bias. For the 30 per cent of people who are buried, only very rarely do local authorities (who own most cemeteries) provide memorial services. For the sake of so many ordinary people who rest in otherwise unvisited tombs and whose obituaries, necessarily overlooked by *The Times*, await the assay of Judgment Day, could local authorities rectify this imbalance?

The Dead Citizens Charter, which we published earlier this spring, includes recommendations both for funerals which address the individual lives of those who die and the provision of a wider range of memorial services for those who grieve.

Yours faithfully,
PETER C. JUPP,
Director,
The National Funerals College,
Braddon House, High Street,
Duddington, Stamford, Lincolnshire,
May 6.

Getting ahead

From Mr Kauno Viinikka

Sir, Rather more than 30 minutes could be saved on the journey time to Paris without the need to spend £3 billion on a Channel Tunnel rail link (letter, May 2). Travellers could arrive a whole hour earlier by simply adapting to Central European time.

Yours faithfully,
K. VIINIKKA,
104 Vanbrugh Park,
Blackheath, SE3,
May 2.

Images of the wild

From Mr M. J. Kerr

Sir, If we are to allot animal symbols to our political parties (letter, April 27), I suggest that the party we support would always be represented by the lion (king of the jungle). The other two by the crocodile (destruction) and the bat (blind stupidity).

Yours faithfully,
M. J. KERR,
The Culver House,
Newnham-on-Severn,
Gloucestershire,
April 27.

From Dr Geoffrey Pocock

Sir, The lyre-bird sounds a suitable symbol for any political party.

Yours faithfully,
G. POCCOCK,
Denmead, Portsmouth,
April 27.

From Mr Adrian Brodikin

Sir, The symbol for the Conservative Party would have to be a mad cow. As Mr Blair is sometimes known as "Bambi", the appropriate symbol for the Labour Party would obviously be a young deer.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN BRODKIN,
93 Kingsley Way, NZ,
April 29.

From Mr Arthur Blackwell

Sir, May I suggest, for the Labour Party, a leopard — with its spots suitably changed.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR BLACKWELL,
Bryn Awen, From Heulog,
Bwlchgwyn, Nr Wrexham,
May 2.

Tongue-tied HMSO

From Dr David G. Guild

Sir, Your leader, "An exercise for Cyril" (May 1), suggests that HMSO should have "included at least one speaker of Uzbek, or even Kazakh" to prevent its £3 million write-off of useless miniature pencils and calendars in Cyrillic script prepared for Uzbekistan (report, April 30).

Distinctions between Uzbek, Kazakh, Kirgiz, Azeri or even Turkmen are not clear-cut. All are effectively dialects of Turkish.

It is likely, going by my own experience, that Azeri is closest to the Turkish of Turkey. Uzbek, which has lost most of its vowel harmony, is further away: an analogy might be English and Scots.

As regards the orthography used for Uzbek I must admit to being not absolutely up to date. Until perhaps the early Forties these peoples used a Roman orthography, based loosely on that devised by Kemal Atatürk for the Turks proper. Subsequently they were not particularly well served by a Cyrillic-based script.

I believe, though I am not certain, they were thinking of returning to the much more adequate Romanisation.

Yours faithfully,
D. G. GUILD,
Lecturer in Russian,
Edinburgh University,
53 Grange Road, Edinburgh 9,
May 1.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 7: The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Member, this evening attended the Fortieth Anniversary Dinner of the Tiger Club at the Naval and Military Club, 94 Piccadilly, London W1N 1LE. Lady Dugdale has succeeded the Lady Elton as Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty.

CLARENCE HOUSE
May 7: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon visited Cynthia Spencer House, Manfield Health Campus, Northampton.
The Hon Mrs Rhodes and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 7: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon presided at the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children which was held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, Edinburgh.
Her Royal Highness was received by the Lord-Lieutenant of

the City of Edinburgh, The Right Hon The Lord Provost Eric Milligan.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
May 7: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning visited GKN Westland Aerospace Limited, Culbourn Works, East Cowes, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight (Mr Christopher Bland).

His Royal Highness this afternoon met members of the local business community at the Royal Yacht Squadron, the Castle, Cowes, and later visited Pilatus Britten-Norman Limited, Bembridge Airport, Bembridge, Isle of Wight.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
May 7: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this afternoon received Mr John Baker upon his appointment as Chairman of English National Opera.

Her Royal Highness, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening opened the William Morris Exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London SW7.

Royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend a service of the Order of the British Empire in St Paul's Cathedral at 11.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Freeman and Liveryman, will attend the Fishmongers' Company court ladies' dinner at Fishmongers' Hall at 7.20.

Prince Edward, as Patron of the Ocean Youth Club, will attend a private view of nautical pictures and memorabilia at Christie's South Kensington at 6.00.

The Princess Royal will open the new Newmarket Hospital, at 9.25; as Patron of the Animal Health Trust, will attend the William Morris Exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London SW7, at 11.00; as Patron of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, will visit Bury St Edmunds bureau, 6 St John's Street, at 3.45. Later, as President of the Animal Health Trust, will attend the industry committee dinner at the Dorchester hotel at 7.30.

Princess Margaret, as President of the National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, will open the society's Coventry children's centre at 7.00 Whitefriars, at 2.25; and will attend a performance by the Birmingham Royal Ballet at the Birmingham Hippodrome at 7.20 in aid of the society.

The Duchess of Gloucester will open the new surgical block at St Michael's Hospital, Trellick Road, Hayle, Cornwall, at 11.50; will open the new extension at Duxley Hospital, Trellick, Truro, at 1.00; as Patron of the National Asthma Campaign, will visit the Asthma Information Centre at St Austell at 2.50; and will attend a presentation at John Keay House, Tegonessy Road, at 3.00 given by members of the Asthma Task Team in Cornwall.

The Duke of Kent, as Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will open the new manufacturing factory of Kigawa Europe, Dolphin Road Industrial Estate, Southampton, Road, Salisbury, at 11.15; will visit Shetland Industries Shetland Workshop, Southampton Road, at 12.15; and will visit the Wilton Carpet Factory, Wilton, at 1.55.

The Duchess of Kent will present the Royal Philharmonic Society music awards at the Dorchester hotel at 11.10.

Princess Alexandra will visit the Louth County Hospital, High Holme Road, Louth, at 2.35; and will open the offices of the Lincolnshire Rural Housing Association at Markham House, Poole's Lane, Spilsby, at 3.50.

Memorial concert

Lancing College

The Choir of Lancing College will perform music by Gabrieli, Monteverdi and Fauré (the Requiem Mass) on May 14, at 7.30pm. The concert, which is part of the Brighton Festival, is dedicated to the memory of four distinguished former music teachers at Lancing: John Alston, Tracey Chadwell, Philip Challis and Christopher Headington. Tickets can be obtained from the Dome Box Office, 29 New Road, Brighton, (01273-707079).

Italian Cultural Institute

An Interfaith Dialogue meeting was held yesterday at the Italian Cultural Institute, 39 Belgrave Square, SW1. Those present were: Mr Shmuel Hadas, Ambassador of Israel to the Holy See, Lord Weidenfeld, Sir Sigmund Sternberg, the Rev Wilfred Forster (Templeton Foundation), Mrs Saba Rissaluddin (Calamus Foundation), Rabbi H. Gryn, Rabbi J. Magone, the Hon. Vigors, racehorse trainer, 49; Mr Justice Waterhouse, 70.

Flying bishop gets his wings

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

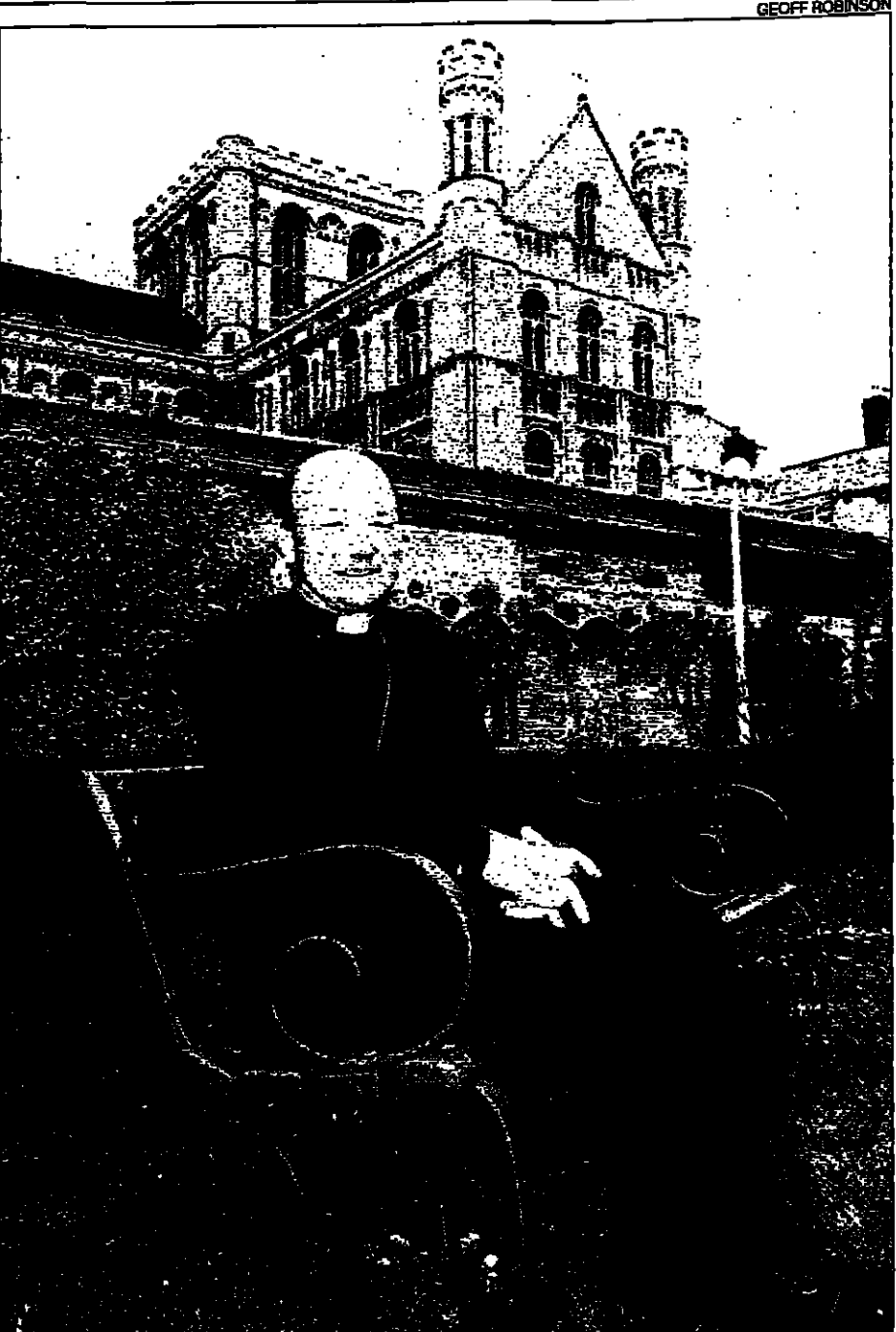
THE Church of England's only genuine flying bishop is to be the next Bishop of Peterborough. The Right Rev Ian Cundy is a qualified pilot, and a strong supporter of women priests. He succeeds the Right Rev Bill Westwood.

As Suffragan Bishop of Lewes, East Sussex, his special theological interest has been how to present the Gospel in a credible way to a post-modern world.

Bishop Cundy, who is married with two sons who are at university and a 13-year-old daughter, was born in Dorset and read maths and theology at Cambridge. He was awarded an RAF flying scholarship at Monckton Combe School in Bath and qualified as a pilot before he had learnt to drive.

Bishop Cundy, the only one of three bishops in his present Chichester diocese to support women priests, did not ordain them there out of respect for the majority view among clergy in the diocese. He is a keen student of the Reformation and organised the Cranmer conference in Durham in 1989 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Cranmer.

Bishop Cundy, an evangelist, said: "I bring a concern for mission, for making the best use of resources in a rural area. I also have a concern to make the Church the focus for the worship of God in every parish."



Bishop Cundy acquainting himself with his new cathedral yesterday

Birthdays today

Sir David Attenborough, CH, naturalist, 70; Lord Blyth of Rivington, 56; Sir Philip Carter, former chairman, Merseyside Development Corporation, 69; Mr Jack Charlton, football manager, 61; Sir Anthony Dawson, former Physician to the Queen, 68; Sir Ian Denholm, former president, General Council of British Shipping, 69; Miss Viviana Durante, ballerina, 29; Viscount Falkland, 61; Miss Heather Harper, soprano, 66; Lord Justice Hoffmann, 62; Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, 71; Mr D.W. Kendall, chairman, Meyer International, 61; Mr Norman Lamont, MP, 54; Father Graham Leonard, 75; Mr Maurice Lindsay, chief executive, Rugby Football League, 55; Miss Felicity Lott, soprano, 49; Lord Merton of Lindsfame, 82; Admiral Sir Neville Purvis, 60; Dr John Reid, MP, 49; Mr Dennis Scard, trade unionist, 53; Mr Johnny Searle, rower, 27; Mr Alastair Service, chairman, Willshire Health Authority, 63; Air Marshal Sir Michael Simmons, 59; Mr David Sole, rugby player, 34; Mr Nicholas Vigors, racehorse trainer, 49; Mr Justice Waterhouse, 70.

Queen opens private home to the public

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

FROGMORE HOUSE, one of the Queen's most private homes in Windsor, Berkshire, will be open to the public next week in aid of Barnardo's, the children's charity.

The Queen agrees to open the house and gardens, which are normally closed to the public, to selected charities a couple of times a year.

The estate first came into royal ownership during the reign of Henry VIII. But it was not until 1792, when the house was bought by Queen Charlotte, consort to George III, that the house and gardens began to take shape.

Work on the gardens began in 1793 by Major William Price. He transformed the narrow stream running through the grounds into a lake, while Queen Charlotte's love of rare and unusual plants found expression in the garden's exotic collection.

James Wyatt was responsible for extensive adaptations to the house during the same period and designed the Gothic ruin which can be seen today.

The Tea House was built in Queen Victoria's favourite corner of the garden, which also houses the Indian Kiosk, built of white marble.

Its orientalism contrasts with the dark backdrop of cedar and wellingtonia. "All is peace and quiet and you can only hear the hum of the bees, the singing of the birds," Queen Victoria once wrote.

The gardens will be open from 10.00am to 6.00pm and tickets can be bought from special events at Barnardo's (0181 550 8822). Entry will cost £2.50 and tickets will be available on the day.

Historic Houses Association

Mr Richard Wilkin has been appointed Director-General-designate of the Historic Houses Association in succession to Mr Terry Empson, who is to retire later this year. Mr Empson will continue as a consultant to the association.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Alain René Le Sage, novelist, Sarzeau, Brittany, 1668; Giovanni Paisiello, composer, Taranto, Italy, 1741; Thomas Hancock, pioneer of the rubber industry, Marlborough, Wiltshire, 1786; Jean Henri Dunant, founder of the International Red Cross, Geneva, 1828; Nevil Sidgwick, chemist, Oxford, 1873; Harry S. Truman, 33rd American President 1945-53, Lamar, Missouri, 1884; Sidney James, actor, Johannesburg, 1914; Sonny Liston, boxer, Arkansas, 1932.

DEATHS: John Stuart Mill, philosopher, Avignon, 1873; Gustave Flaubert, novelist, Croisset, France, 1880; Paul Gauguin, painter, Atuana, Marquesas Islands, 1903; Eadward Muybridge, photographer and pioneer of the study of animal locomotion, Kingston upon Thames, 1904; Harry Gordon Selfridge, founder of the London store, London, 1947; Emmanuel Shinwell, Baron Shinwell, statesman, London, 1986.

The British monarchy was restored, 1660.
Africans became the official language of South Africa, 1924.
VE-Day, 1945.

Luncheons

Institute of Physics
Dr C.A.P. Foxell presided at a luncheon held yesterday at the Goring Hotel for representatives of the Institute of Physics Corporate Affiliate Companies. Ms Barbara Beckett was the speaker.

Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission
Admiral William J. Crowe, Jr, the American Ambassador, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon given yesterday at the Goring Hotel by the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission in honour of British Marshall Scholars completing their awards. Dr Robert Stevens, Chairman of the Commission, presided. Mr Jeremy Hanley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, also spoke.

Reception

A reception was held at The Great Hall, Gray's Inn, in honour of Jeremy Lever, QC, and David Kemp, QC, to mark their retirement as practising barristers from Monckton Chambers, 4 Raymond Buildings. Amongst those present were:

Viscount and Viscountess Monckton of Bremler, Lord Borrie, QC, Lord Wilford, QC, Sir Patrick Neill, QC, and Lady Neill, Mr Graeme Odgers and John Swift, QC, and Mrs Swift.

Dinner

The British Antique Dealers' Association
The President of the British Antique Dealers' Association, the Hon Peter Brooke, CH, MP, presided at the London dinner held on Thursday at Armoury House, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of State for National Heritage, was the principal guest.

Women's Corona Society

Professor Sir Gillian Prance, FRS, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, presided and gave the keynote address at a Women's Corona Society conference held yesterday at Kew. Dr Ronald Keay, Miss Sue Minter, Director of the Chelsea Physic Garden, Mr Brian Mathew, Mr Humphrey Birrell and Mr Noel Kingsbury were the speakers.

Schools news

St Mary's School, Ascot
St Mary's Ascot Old Girls Association reminded that Families Day and the Chapel Centenary Celebrations will take place at the School on Saturday, May 11, starting at 2.30pm. The Right Rev Crispian Hollis, Bishop of Portsmouth, will celebrate Mass of the Sunday at 5.30pm. All Old Girls and their families are welcome.

Scholarships and Awards
The Sixth Form Science Scholarship for 1996 has been awarded to Emma Latham, St Mary's School, Ascot. The 1996 St Mary's School Music Scholarship has been won by Catherine Armour of Queen Mary's School, Thirsk. The Ascot Old Girls Association Sixth Form Bursary for 1996 has been awarded to Clara Gormley also of Queen Mary's School, Thirsk.

Walhampton School, Lymington, Hampshire

The Governors of Walhampton School have appointed Mr Adrian Gokul, at present The Master of Hurstpierpoint College, Junior School, as Headmaster of Walhampton School, to succeed Mr Andrew Robinson who is retiring.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr E.R.P. Baring and Miss M.V. Stanton
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr Thomas Baring and the Hon Mrs Sarah Baring, and Marianne, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Lawrence Stanton.

Mr F.M.J. Li and Miss M.M.S. Chan
The engagement is announced, and the marriage will take place on May 25, at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, London, between John, son of Dr and Mrs Ting Man Li, of Curzon Park, Chester, and Sylvia, daughter of Mrs Hock Hwa Chan, of Singapore.

Mr N.A. Lloyd and Miss C.A. Moore Gordon
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, youngest son of the late Mr Albert Lloyd and of Mrs A.V. Lloyd, of Llangollen, Clwyd, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Moore Gordon, of Whimple, Devon.

Mr A.J. Wilkinson and Miss K.E. Harrison
The engagement is announced between Joe, son of Mr and Mrs Ashley Wilkinson, of Dunston Farm, Chesterfield, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Harrison, of Enfield, Middlesex.

Marriage

Mr H. Duboucq and Miss G. Huijer-Jones
The marriage took place on May 4, at St Giles-in-the-Fields, between Mr Hilaire Duboucq and Miss Georgina Huijer-Jones. A reception was held at Skinners' Hall.

Latest wills

The Rt Hon Harold, Lord Lever of Manchester, PC, of London SW1, former Labour MP for Manchester Central, and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster 1974-79, left estate valued at £1,055,529 net.

Mrs Margaret Carolyn Courtenay of London W4, Margaret Courtenay, the actress — left estate valued at £124,826 net.

Brigadier Walter Michael Wingate Grey, OBE, MC and Bar, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, former director of the Special Air Service (SAS), left estate valued at £154,559 net. He left £2,000 to the Black Watch Association and £1,000 to the Special Forces Regimental Association.

Mr George Frederick Yates, of London SW3, left estate valued at £2,366,806 net.

Other wills include, net before tax: Mr Lewis Anderson, of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, £192,180; Mr Henry Lewis Balmer, of Houghton le Spring, Tyne and Wear, £18,541.

Mrs Margaret Cardwell, of Lancaster, £98,206; Mrs Sheila Margaret Counts, of Norwich, Norfolk, £60,090; Mr Henry Boyton Fraser, of Dorchester, Dorset, £77,847.

Mr John Frank William Grover, of Shroton, Dorset, £602,609; Mr Francis Robert Kerry, of Drakelow, Derbyshire, greetings card publisher, £867,997; Eva Knowles, of Tong, West Yorkshire, £735,850.

Mr Neville Morley Ling, of How Caple, Herefordshire, £994,200; Mr George Bates Mason, of London, Warwickshire, £2,008,689; Mrs Myrtle Sykes Massey, of Garton on the Wolds, North Humberside, £637,783.

Mr John Ashton Norgate, of Newbury, Berkshire, £1,288,289; Mr John William Peet, of Halifax, West Yorkshire, retired master dyer, £603,689.

Mr Clarendon Robert Perreval, of Pendermore, Somerset, £597,738; Vera Guye Steward, of Reigate, Surrey, £514,451.

Mrs Dorothy Mary Stewart, of Alderley Edge, Cheshire, £737,315.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 1982

PERSONAL COLUMN

So come to him, in the living stone which was rejected by men but chosen by God and of great worth to him.
1 Peter 2: 4 (ESV)

BIRTHS

ADAMSON - On 3rd May 1996 at Troil, to George (son of Robert) and Susan, a son Alexander George Adamson.

ARJANT - On 4th April 1996 at the Portland Hospital, to Alan and Susan, a son George Christian Arjant.

APPLETON - On 19th April 1996, to Julia and Mark, a son George Christian Appleton.

AVLETT - On May 1st at the Portland Hospital, to Robert and Robert, a beautiful daughter Amelia, a sister for Jessica Rose.

BAGES - On 7th May 1996 at 15.00pm in the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Edwin Collier and John Bages a perfect baby boy weighing 3.13kg.

CAREY - On 4th April 1996 at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, to Alison (nee Keen) and Adrian, a daughter, Isabel Eleanor Carey, a sister for Emily, Sophie and Peter.

COHEN - On 4th April 1996 at the Portland Hospital, to Lisa and David, a son George Cohen, a brother for Chloe and Michael.

COLE - On May 2nd at the Portland Hospital, to Alison (nee Macdonald) and Charles, a beautiful twin daughter and son.

DE NIEPPE - On May 6th, to Elizabeth (nee Kinkaid) and Patrick, a son Alexander Patrick De Nieppe.

HORTON - On May 2nd 1996 at St. George's Hospital, to Sophie (nee Pearson) and Mark, a son Frederick Horton, a brother for James.

JURKO - On April 27th at the Portland Hospital, to Marika Jurkovic and Mark, a beautiful lovely first daughter, Yula.

MORGAN - To Daniel and Alice (nee Reid) on 4th May 1996, a son Frederick Mark Morgan.

NEBBITT - On 2nd May 1996 to John and Francesca a daughter, Louisa Hebe.

BIRTHS

FALFREYMAN - On April 28th, to Tricia (nee Davis) and David, a son Benjamin Falfreyman, a sister for Stephanie Mary Judith, a sister for Amelia.

REYNOLDS - On May 3rd at Queen Charlotte's, Chelsea, to Emma (nee Scott-Adie) and Paul, a son William Reynolds, a brother for Jamie and George.

RICHARDS - Elizabeth Marie on May 2nd 1996, at the Portland Hospital, a truly adorable daughter to Joseph and Paul Richards, and a sister to Natalie and Thomas.

SANDS - On May 1st at the Portland Hospital, to Helen (nee Moss) and Steven, a daughter Mia Charlotte, a sister for James and Robert.

SHORTHOUSE - On April 27th, to Cathy and Dominic, a son Thomas.

TOMLINSON - On 6th May 1996 at the Portland Hospital, to David and David, a son Samuel Charles, a brother for Alice and Lucy.

TOMLINSON - On 30th April, to Polly (nee Barber) and Jonathan, a son Samuel Thomas Tomlinson, a brother for Isabella.

COLE - On May 2nd at the Portland Hospital, to Alison (nee Macdonald) and Charles, a beautiful twin daughter and son.

DE NIEPPE - On May 6th, to Elizabeth (nee Kinkaid) and Patrick, a son Alexander Patrick De Nieppe.

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MORGAN - To Daniel and Alice (nee Reid) on 4th May 1996, a son Frederick Mark Morgan.

NEBBITT - On 2nd May 1996 to John and Francesca a daughter, Louisa Hebe.

NEBBITT - On 2nd May 1996 to John and Francesca a daughter, Louisa Hebe.

DEATHS

CHRISTOPHERSON - On May 3rd 1996, peacefully at home, to Robert (son of Robert) and Susan, a son Alexander George Christoperson, a brother for Jamie and George.

REYNOLDS - On May 3rd at Queen Charlotte's, Chelsea, to Emma (nee Scott-Adie) and Paul, a son William Reynolds, a brother for Jamie and George.

RICHARDS - Elizabeth Marie on May 2nd 1996, at the Portland Hospital, a truly adorable daughter to Joseph and Paul Richards, and a sister to Natalie and Thomas.

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HORTON - On May 2nd 1996 at St. George's Hospital, to Sophie (nee Pearson) and Mark, a son Frederick Horton, a brother for James.

JURKO - On April 27th at the Portland Hospital, to Marika Jurkovic and Mark, a beautiful lovely first daughter, Yula.

MORGAN - To Daniel and Alice (nee Reid) on 4th May 1996, a son Frederick Mark Morgan.

NEBBITT - On 2nd May 1996 to John and Francesca a daughter, Louisa Hebe.

NEBBITT - On 2nd May 1996 to John and Francesca a daughter, Louisa Hebe.

DEATHS

DURLING - Margaret (nee Durling) on May 4th 1996, peacefully at home, to Robert (son of Robert) and Susan, a son Alexander George Durling, a brother for Jamie and George.

REYNOLDS - On May 3rd at Queen Charlotte's, Chelsea, to Emma (nee Scott-Adie) and Paul, a son William Reynolds, a brother for Jamie and George.

RICHARDS - Elizabeth Marie on May 2nd 1996, at the Portland Hospital, a truly adorable daughter to Joseph and Paul Richards, and a sister to Natalie and Thomas.

SANDS - On May 1st at the Portland Hospital, to Helen (nee Moss) and Steven, a daughter Mia Charlotte, a sister for James and Robert.

SHORTHOUSE - On April 27th, to Cathy and Dominic, a son Thomas.

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TOMLINSON - On 30th April, to Polly (nee Barber) and Jonathan, a son Samuel Thomas Tomlinson, a brother for Isabella.

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DE NIEPPE - On May 6th, to Elizabeth (nee Kinkaid) and Patrick, a son Alexander Patrick De Nieppe.

HORTON - On May 2nd 1996 at St. George's Hospital, to Sophie (nee Pearson) and Mark, a son Frederick Horton, a brother for James.

JURKO - On April 27th at the Portland Hospital, to Marika Jurkovic and Mark, a beautiful lovely first daughter, Yula.

MORGAN - To Daniel and Alice (nee Reid) on 4th May 1996, a son Frederick Mark Morgan.

NEBBITT - On 2nd May 1996 to John and Francesca a daughter, Louisa Hebe.

NEBBITT - On 2nd May 1996 to John and Francesca a daughter, Louisa Hebe.

DEATHS

ELLIS - On May 4th 1996, peacefully at home, to Robert (son of Robert) and Susan, a son Alexander George Ellis, a brother for Jamie and George.

REYNOLDS - On May 3rd at Queen Charlotte's, Chelsea, to Emma (nee Scott-Adie) and Paul, a son William Reynolds, a brother for Jamie and George.

RICHARDS - Elizabeth Marie on May 2nd 1996, at the Portland Hospital, a truly adorable daughter to Joseph and Paul Richards, and a sister to Natalie and Thomas.

SANDS - On May 1st at the Portland Hospital, to Helen (nee Moss) and Steven, a daughter Mia Charlotte, a sister for James and Robert.

SHORTHOUSE - On April 27th, to Cathy and Dominic, a son Thomas.

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TOMLINSON - On 30th April, to Polly (nee Barber) and Jonathan, a son Samuel Thomas Tomlinson, a brother for

No income support for resident

Botchett v Chief Adjudication Officer

Before Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Morritt

[Judgment May 7]

A mentally handicapped resident at a registered nursing home, receiving care in her daily life but not treatment for mental illness, was not entitled to income support and was in the same position as a hospital in-patient as far as entitlement to social security benefits was concerned.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by Karen Botchett against a decision of Mr M. Head, a social security commissioner, on June 13, 1994 to allow the appeal of the adjudication officer from a decision of the Social Security Appeal Tribunal to allow an appeal by the appellant from a decision of the adjudication officer to reject her claim for income support from July 29, 1991.

Regulation 2 of the Social Security (Hospital In-Patients) Regulations (SI 1975 No 550), in force in 1991 but since amended by the Social Security (Miscellaneous

Provisions) Amendment (No 2) Regulations (SI 1992 No 2595) provides:

"(2) For the purposes of these regulations, a person shall be regarded as receiving or having received free in-patient treatment for any period for which he is or has been maintained free of charge while undergoing medical or other treatment as an in-patient (a) in a hospital or similar institution... or (b) pursuant to arrangements made by the secretary of state or by any body in exercise of functions on behalf of the secretary of state under those Acts in a hospital or similar institution not so maintained or administered."

Mr Philip Havers, QC, for Miss Botchett; Miss Nathalie Liewen for the Chief Adjudication Officer.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said the appellant was one of 12 residents at Coombe End nursing home, Gloucester. All were severely mentally handicapped so as to need a high degree of care and supervision in their daily lives, but none of them mentally ill in the sense of needing or receiving treatment for mental illness. The nursing home had since 1991 been

administered by a trust, which had taken it over from the local health authority.

The trust bore the cost of maintaining the appellant and other residents, but if she was entitled to receive more than what was known as the "pocket money element" as income support from the DSS, the trust would receive the additional payments. Otherwise the health authority would have to meet the trust's costs.

The appellant said she and her fellow residents were not mentally ill. They received care rather than treatment which they did not need, and in those circumstances it could not be said that they received "medical or other treatment" or that they were "patients" or that Coombe End was a "similar institution" to a hospital.

The respondents, on the other hand, submitted that the statutory definitions were such that mentally handicapped persons such as the appellant received nursing care within the phrase "medical or other treatment" and that Coombe End was a "similar institution" with regulation 2(2) of the 1975 Regulations.

The regulations had to be construed with reference to the statutory definitions of "hospital", "illness" and "mental disorder".

In his Lordship's judgment, those led inexorably to the conclusion that persons suffering from the appellant's degree of mental handicap were within the definition of mental disorder; that the care and assistance they received from nursing as opposed to domestic staff must be regarded as "medical or other treatment" within the statutory definition and that the home was a "similar institution" to a hospital.

The key factor was that the definition of mental disorder included "arrested or incomplete development of mind" and "any other disorder of disability of mind".

The natural and ordinary meaning of the phrase was sufficiently wide to include malfunction or non-functioning of the mind not caused by illness but due to some defect in the mental processes.

Solicitors: Bevan Ashford, Bristol; Solicitor, Department of Social Security.

Appeal panel term breached

Westminster City Council v Cabaj

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Hutchison

[Judgment April 24]

Where the contract of employment provided for an appeal by the employee to a panel of three councillors against a decision to dismiss him, that contractual requirement was not satisfied if the appeal panel affirming his dismissal consisted only of two councillors. However, that deficiency was not necessarily sufficient to render the dismissal unfair.

The effect of that failure on the fairness or otherwise of the dismissal was a matter for the industrial tribunal and it was not within the jurisdiction of the Employment Appeal Tribunal to decide the question rather than remit it to the industrial tribunal for its decision.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by Westminster City Council from the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Mummery, Mrs T. Mansfield and Mr K. M. Young) dated June 24, 1994. The appeal tribunal had allowed the appeal of the employee, Mr G. R. Cabaj, and substituted for the decision of the industrial tribunal that the employee had been fairly dismissed his own decision that he had been unfairly dismissed.

The EAT considered that the contract of employment between the employee and the council provided for an appeal against any decision to dismiss him to a panel consisting of three members of the council but, as his appeal against dismissal was heard only by two members, the decision to dismiss him was necessarily unfair so that they were entitled to substitute their own view for that of the industrial tribunal rather than allow the appeal and remit the matter back to a differently constituted industrial tribunal.

Mr Martin Kurrein for the council; Mr Jonathan Marks, QC, for the employee.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that the council contended that the EAT was wrong. They submitted, first, that the employee was not contractually entitled to an appeal tribunal consisting of three members of the council. They accepted that if the employee was so entitled the EAT was right to have allowed the appeal.

But they contended, second, that in that event the failure of the council to provide for the appeal to which the employee was contractually entitled was not necessarily sufficient to make the decision to dismiss him unfair. The consequence, they submitted, was that the EAT had no jurisdiction to decide the question of the fairness or otherwise of his dismissal and

should have remitted it to the industrial tribunal.

By paragraph 5(3) of the council's disciplinary code the chief executive was required "to convene a meeting of the appeal tribunal consisting of three members of the council". The "appeal tribunal" was not otherwise defined. Thus it was plain that for the purposes of the disciplinary code it was required to consist of three members of the council.

Moreover, although the appeal tribunal might for some purposes have been a subcommittee of the council, the chief executive was required to convene a meeting of the appeal tribunal not of a committee or subcommittee of the council to which the provisions of the standing orders of the council as to quorum might apply.

The normal meaning of the word "convene" was "to cause to come together". A requirement to cause three people to come together was not satisfied by summoning three people if only two people came together.

The point was a short one. His Lordship had no doubt that the council was contractually obliged through their chief executive to provide an appeal tribunal of three members of the council and did not perform their contract with the employee in that respect before dismissing him.

Accordingly, the second question arose as to the effect of that failure on the fairness or otherwise of the dismissal and whether it was within the jurisdiction of the EAT to decide the question rather than remit it to the industrial tribunal for their decision.

The question of fairness was posed by section 57(3) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978. The appeal to the EAT was restricted by section 136(1) to "a question of law arising from any decision of, or arising in any proceedings before, an industrial tribunal". But that did not mean that whenever an appeal from a decision of an industrial tribunal was allowed the matter had to be remitted to the industrial tribunal.

Thus the question was whether the failure of the council to observe their own contractually enforceable disciplinary procedure inevitably required the industrial tribunal properly instructed to conclude that the dismissal of the employee was unfair.

Counsel for the council submitted that it did not. He accepted that it might be contended that it would be a matter for the industrial tribunal to determine whether it did.

Those submissions were disputed by counsel for the employee. He submitted that the council imposed on employers to observe the latter agreed disciplinary procedures was heavy; that in consequence every plain and significant breach of agreed disciplinary procedures must involve unfair dismissal.

He emphasised that the reason for the failure of the council to perform their contractual obligation, whatever it was, could make no difference and emphasised the importance of giving full weight to the views of a specialist tribunal such as the EAT.

His Lordship accepted many of the submissions of counsel for the

employee and agreed that employers ought to follow agreed disciplinary procedures and that full weight should be given to the views of experienced specialist tribunals such as the EAT.

On any remission, the industrial tribunal would be bound to consider at least whether the failure to convene a meeting of an appeal tribunal consisting of three members of the council impeded the employee in demonstrating that the real reason for his dismissal was not sufficient and the reasons, if any, why the council determined to dismiss him without having observed the requirements of the disciplinary code. The industrial tribunal would then have to decide the three questions posed by section 57(3).

His Lordship did not think that it could be predicated that the industrial tribunal must inevitably answer all those questions in the sense which would justify the conclusion that the dismissal was unfair. They might, but his Lordship did not think that they must.

In his Lordship's view the EAT were wrong to conclude that there could only be one result of a further hearing before the industrial tribunal, namely a finding of unfair dismissal. It was not disputed that in that event the appeal should be allowed, the decision of the industrial tribunal discharged and the matter remitted to a further constituted industrial tribunal for it to consider the matter afresh.

Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Hutchison agreed.

Solicitors: Mr Colin T. Wilson, Westminster; Kidd Rapinet, Maidenhead.

Malicious falsehood plaintiff did not show monetary loss

Allison v Campbell and Others

Before Sir Maurice Drake

[Judgment May 2]

Even where it was found that a newspaper article had been published falsely and with malice, an action for malicious falsehood would not succeed where a plaintiff was unable to prove that he had suffered pecuniary loss as a result.

Sir Maurice Drake, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held when dismissing a claim by Mr Rupert Allison, MP, for damages for malicious falsehood in respect of an article alleged to have been instigated by the first and second defendants, Mr Alastair Campbell and Mr Andy McSmith, journalists employed by the third defendant, Mirror Group Newspapers who published the article.

The plaintiff in person: Mr Charles Gray, QC and Miss Heather Rogers for the defendants.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the claim for damages for malicious falsehood arose in respect of an article published in the *Daily Mirror* on November 20, 1992 which claimed that 50 MPs had signed an early day motion challenging Mr Allison to hand over to Maxwell pensioners an estimated £250,000 he had won in libel damages from the newspaper.

He found that, on the facts and on a balance of probabilities, the plaintiff had failed to prove sufficient malicious involvement in the publication of the article complained of against the first defendant; he could find no evidence of malice at all on the part of the second defendant.

In respect of the third defendant, the article, which had been written by another of his employees, was false and malicious in that it had misrepresented by a significant amount the number of MPs signing the early day motion and had failed to state that they were all Labour MPs.

However, the plaintiff had not been able to prove that he had lost a book contract because of the article, nor that he had suffered any other pecuniary loss as a consequence of publication.

Furthermore, the third defendant had acted promptly to comply with the plaintiff's requests for apology and correction so that any possible claim that might have arisen had been settled on the terms agreed. Accordingly the plaintiff's claim would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Theodore Goddard.

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هكذا من الأصل

Midlands marriage posers for PowerGen Banks draw up their action plan Takeover strife in southwest London

Spectre at the altar

ANYONE who has attended a wedding knows that awful, pin-drop silence that follows the words "lawful impediment". There is always the split-second, irrational vision of some long-lost lover appearing on the church steps crying "It should have been me!"

Casting a pall over what should have been the perfect day for Midlands yesterday was one discarded suitor, Ed Wallis at PowerGen is still an angry man, and he has it in him to make the honeymoon an uncomfortable experience.

PowerGen is not ruling out a judicial review of Ian Lang's decision to block its own marriage with Midlands, which cleared the way for the joint American bid. But Mr Wallis is not confirming he will go ahead with one. This is as well, since he and his corporate lawyers must know it would have precious little chance of success.

The only possible challenge would be to claim Mr Lang's block for the PowerGen-Midlands merger was *ultra vires*, that it was not in Mr Lang's power to make such a decision. This is nonsense; bodies such as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission are paid to advise, and politicians such as Mr Lang to take decisions based on that

advice, however much one might disagree with those decisions.

So what is PowerGen playing at? There is always pleasure in sheer cussedness, in unsettling all concerned by waiting to the last moment to accept the inevitable. There is also the option of the company retaining its 21 per cent stake in Midlands for a while, perhaps to strike some deal with the Americans. Tempting: the latter might be keen to take agreed output from PowerGen's stations, which could then be sold on to the newly-competitive supply market in 1998.

This drive into supply was always the impetus behind the original PowerGen-Midlands merger. But the climate, if it changes, will most likely move away from the sort of vertical integration PowerGen dreams of, especially if there is a Labour government.

What the Americans have done, by paying 74p a share more than PowerGen was prepared to offer last year, is throw into sharp relief the attractions of the five remaining regional

electricity companies, or at least three of them. Southern is back in play. The company, once ambitious for expansion under its own steam, has already accepted the idea of a takeover from outside.

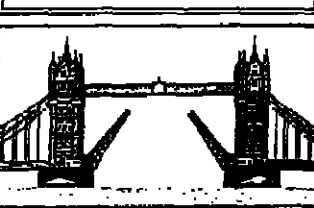
Northern and East Midlands have emptied the coffers with scorched-earth policies that make them less attractive. But London and Yorkshire's own shareholder packages were more of a singed lawn really. A bid for London at least from Houston Industries looks like the next throw in the electricity game.

A light at the Tunnel's end

THE Channel Tunnel is the property of the banks that funded its construction. That is a fact — Eurotunnel, the operator, owes its syndicate of 225 banks more than £10 for every pound of its market worth.

No one, neither the banks nor the shareholders, is happy about this. French investors have al-

PENNINGTON



ways been more loyal than perfidious Albion, and they currently outnumber their British counterparts by four to one. Today, a trainload of French shareholders, their minds no doubt alive with folk memories of Bastille Day, will head for Eurotunnel's Calais terminal with a demand that the banks write off 30 per cent of the debt.

Not entirely coincidentally, the banks will today table their own early proposals for financial restructuring. Their aim is to convert part of the debt into equity, and recast the remainder into loans at an interest rate more in line with current market rates than the 8.6 per cent that

Eurotunnel is currently liable for, if not actually paying.

The proposals are, of course, designed to extract maximum value for the banks' shareholders. Sir Alastair Morton and his French co-chairman, Patrick Ponsolle, have already signalled their intent to fight a doctored rearguard action on behalf of shareholders, as is their duty.

Investors will still be obliged to accept a hefty level of dilution. The argument will be over how much. The tunnel will have revenues of around £450 million this year, against some £700 million of interest falling due. Keep too much debt, and the tunnel will remain on its financial treadmill, battling to generate enough cash to meet its interest bill.

But shareholders know that they will be better off with a smaller slice of a larger, if thinner cake, than a hefty wedge of something entirely indigestible. If the banks can cut the right deal, Eurotunnel stock could yet come back into fashion, a startling thought. At the last count,

French investors held 56.6 per cent of the equity, compared to 30.32 per cent held in the United Kingdom.

British pension funds and private investors are big buyers of utility stocks, provided the numbers stack up. Almost all are underweight in Eurotunnel shares. At the right price, they might buy Eurotunnel back from the banks — to the relief of everyone concerned.

Trouble in store

IT is a long way from the Scott inquiry to the Department Store That Time Forgot. Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, has been asked to intervene in the affairs of Elys of Wimbledon.

The battle being fought out in this leafy corner of southwest London looks the classic case of the unspeakable in pursuit of the inedible. On one side is Panther Securities, a property tiddler with no retail experience that has launched a highly unconven-

tional £6.8 million takeover for a business that might politely be described as soporific. On the other, a management that controls a large chunk of the shares through charitable trusts.

Panther's two-tier offer has been designed to unpeel these trusts, some family controlled, and has had only partial success. Panther speaks for half the company but needs 65 per cent; the management can use the trusts to block this. Ten per cent of Elys is owned by the staff pension scheme — not good in today's climate. This is where Sir Nicholas might come in, along with the Charity Commissioners, although both could probably do without the hassle.

Panther admits the only reason for the two-tier offer is to get around the trust structure. It might also allow control to be bought on the cheap, if not everyone accepts. Elys, desperately underperforming and menaced by a huge new mall nearby, might seem to have little future in retail, and one assumes Panther sees it as a pure property development play. This so, the ideal solution would seem for the offer to be upped slightly and made a straightforward one that the trusts would be legally bound to accept. This might save Sir Nicholas some trouble too.

BSkyB switch into digital will allow 500-channel spread

By PAUL DURMAN

BSKYB, the satellite television group, is pressing ahead with a move to digital technology that will allow it to offer up to 500 channels.

Sam Chisholm, chairman and chief executive of British Sky Broadcasting, said yesterday that the new digital service will be launched in the second half of next year, initially with about 200 channels. This huge increase in capacity will allow it to schedule movies at a variety of times and will also increase the scope for "pay-per-view" television.

BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, has already secured space on a new satellite that will be launched in the autumn of next year.

Yesterday, BSKYB reported pre-tax profits of £177.5 million for the nine months to March 31. This was a 71 per cent increase on the same period in the previous year, and more

than the company made in the whole of its previous financial year.

This advance was helped by a £20 million reduction in interest payments, reflecting the money that the company raised on its flotation at the end of 1994. Operating profits were 32 per cent higher at £222.7 million, on turnover that was 30 per cent ahead at £736.3 million.

The number of subscribers has risen to 5,349,000, an increase of 800,000 on the figure at this time last year. Mr Chisholm said this meant that one in five British households now subscribes to Sky. The total now includes 1.6 million subscribers with cable television.

Mr Chisholm said that Sky made a small profit on its first experiment with pay-per-view television, the Frank Bruno-Mike Tyson fight for the WBC world heavyweight title. More than 15 per cent of Sky's subscribers paid to see the

bout, even though it was scheduled to be broadcast at 4am.

He would not be drawn on Sky's plans for further pay-per-view events. "It's got to be something very special," Mr Chisholm said. "It needn't necessarily be boxing. It might be a concert in the summer."

The extension of pay-per-view into football relied on the agreement of the football authorities, he added.

Mr Chisholm said that it would be a setback if BSKYB were to lose its exclusive contract to show live Premier-league football matches, but he described such a prospect as "unthinkable".

The contract comes up for renewal next year, and other consortia are reportedly considering bids of up to £500 million a year. Mr Chisholm was dismissive of their chances. He said that, at the end of the day, there are unlikely to be any serious contenders other than Sky.

Vodafone pays £300m to raise French telecom stake

By MARTIN BARROW

VODAFONE, the UK mobile telecommunications company, has lifted its interest in Société Française de Radiotéléphonie (SFR) to 16.5 per cent, from 10 per cent, at a total cost of almost £300 million. SFR operates one of the two mobile telephone networks available in France, in

competition with France Telecom, with approximately 555,000 subscribers, of which 418,000 are connected to its digital GSM service.

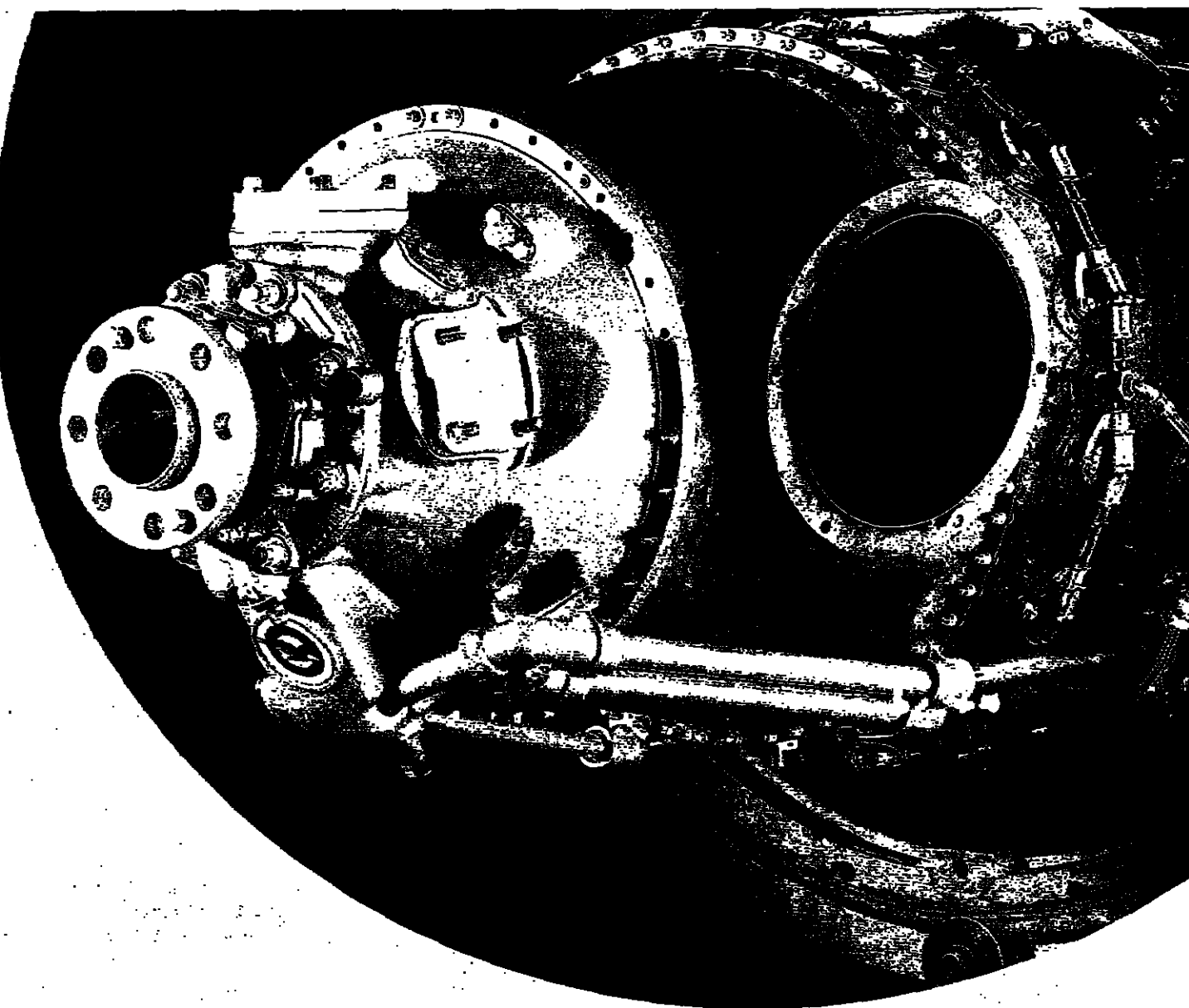
The company claims that it attracted 40 per cent of total new subscriptions at the end of 1995 and about 50 per cent in the first quarter this year. However, competition is set to intensify, with Bouygues Telecom, which won a third

licence in January 1995, due to start its services on May 29.

Vodafone is to pay a total of FF2.3 billion for the shares, comprising FF1.84 billion on completion at the end of July and the balance in July 2001. Vodafone has an option to further increase its shareholding in SFR to 20 per cent by the end of 1997. The acquisition is part of a 1994

partnership between Compagnie Générale des Eaux and Vodafone. SFR's other shareholder is Cofira, a subsidiary of Générale des Eaux, in which Southwestern Bell Corporation, of America, and Alcatel have minority interests.

In France, subscriber penetration was less than 3 per cent of the total population at March 31.



Scope for gas deal says BP

By CARL MORTSHED

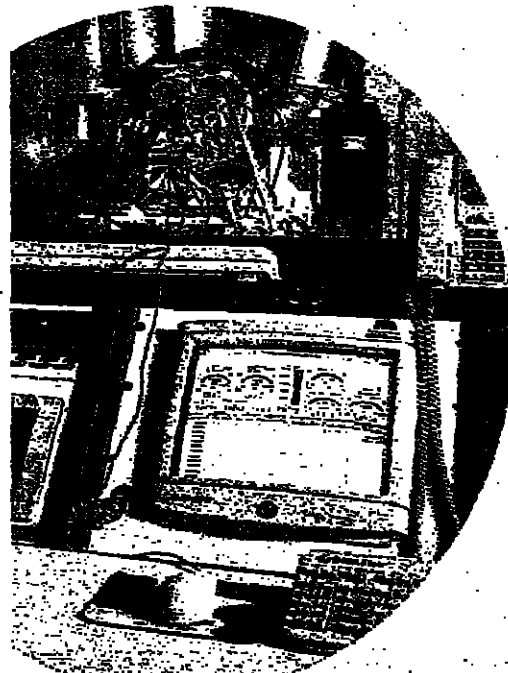
NEGOTIATIONS over take-or-pay gas contracts could provide an opportunity for BP, the oil company said yesterday, after announcing a surge in first-quarter profits.

Stronger oil prices helped to raise BP's replacement cost profit before exceptional items from £461 million in the first quarter of 1995 to £633 million.

Sir David Simon, chairman, said that negotiations with British Gas over the contracts should not be seen just as a problem but as an opportunity to supply more gas and secure more competition for the consumer.

"From our point of view it is an opportunity to achieve greater flexibility of supply, if we can structure it correctly," said Sir David.

BP's exploration and production profits rose £543 million to £737 million, with lower oil production but record gas production, up 24 per cent in the cold weather.



Sir David Simon sees opportunities in take-or-pay contracts

Tempus, page 28

Forte gets MAID service

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

GUESTS in Forte hotels will soon be able to surf the Internet while munching breakfast in bed.

Forte, which was recently taken over by Granada, has linked up with MAID, the on-

line publisher, to wire up its 50,000 hotel rooms worldwide to the Internet. The new service will include access to MAID's business and news databases as well as direct access to the Internet.

Shares in MAID rose 27p in London to close at a year high of 249p.

MAID said that net access in Forte hotels would be provided in two stages. MAID will initially provide pay-as-you-go access to its Profound Business Intelligence databases through dedicated terminals located in the business centres throughout Forte's

international hotels. But ultimately MAID aims to provide full access to its databases, and the Internet, through in-room television sets. MAID will manage Forte's own Internet homepages which will provide detailed information on Forte services.

Analysts said that the deal would generate little new revenue but it should ensure that MAID becomes a familiar name to business travellers worldwide. The company's share price has been strengthening in recent months after a series of agreements to expand distribution of its databases.

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£129
To Zakopane in the beautiful Tatra Mountains
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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

National Grid sparks as Capel starts to sell

IT looks as if James Capel, the broker, has begun unloading some of the 210 million shares in National Grid it bought from Hanson last week.

In heavy trading of National Grid shares yesterday several large lines of stock went through, indicating that part of the 12.4 per cent stake was finally on the move to the eventual buyer. A line of 9 million shares went through at 204p followed by a line of 6 million at the same price and a line of 3.76 million.

By the close of business, 32.7 million shares had changed hands with the price unchanged at 198 1/2p despite the huge turnover. Further heavy turnover is expected in the shares today as the rest of the shares are cleared.

Last week Capel paid Hanson 192 1/2p for a total of 210 million shares which Hanson acquired when it bought Eastern Group. Most of those shares were held by the broker on its books as a trading position. Capel later confirmed that it had hedged its position with Olayan, Saudi Arabian backed company based in Athens. But there were doubts in the market that Olayan would turn out to be the eventual buyer.

Elsewhere in the electrical sector, Midlands Electricity stood out with a rise of 10p to 453p after agreeing terms of a £1.7 billion bid for General Public Utilities of New Jersey and Cinergy of Ohio. The Americans dipped into the market and picked up a 9 per cent stake in Midlands and by the close almost 59 million shares had traded.

News of the deal comes just a couple of weeks after the Government blocked a proposed bid for Midland from PowerGen. But the terms of the joint American bid of 440p a share failed to match the expectations of most City speculators who had been looking for a price of nearer 500p a share. PowerGen, down 8p at 549p, is expected to make a profit of around £80 million on its 20 per cent stake in Midland. Other bids in the sector are now expected to follow, including one for Southern which had a similar offer from National Power rejected by the Government. Southern firmed 5p to 844p with Yorkshire 6p better at 829p and East Midlands 8p firmer at 635p.

Attempts at a rally by the



Harry Ramsden's shares rose on speculation about a bid

rest of the market after a cautious start soon faltered with dealers worried by the prospect of a further shakeout on Wall Street. In the event, the caution showed by most brokers proved well founded with the Dow Jones extending this week's fall and tumbling more than 40 points in early trading.

The London market now

unlike and that the two sides are discussing joint ventures. The talks with Varsity co-incident with the recent news that George Simpson, chief executive, is leaving to take over the running of GEC.

Another company facing the prospect of a bid is Harry Ramsden's, the quality fish and chip restaurant chain, where the price soared 53p

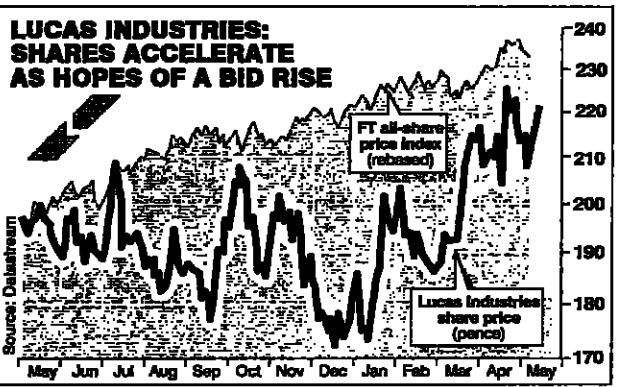
Great Universal Stores continues to reel from last week's profits warning, with a fall of 6p, to 688p, taking to 47p the week-long slide. The group's problems were compounded yesterday by Kleinwort Benson, the broker, which is urging clients to switch out of GUS and into Marks & Spencer. It firmed at 426p.

looks set to dive below the 3,700 mark and could soon find itself testing 3,650. Last night it closed 28.6 down at 3,723.0 in thin trading that saw less than 700 million shares traded.

Lucas Industries enjoyed an early mark-up with the price touching 242 1/2p before finishing 25 1/2p better at 233 1/2p after confirming it was in talks with Varsity, the US auto components group. Some brokers say that a merger is

an all-time high of 437p. In the past week alone, the price has come up from around 326p. There is talk of a bid from either Whitbread, or Rank Organisation, or a bid for 532p. At the levels, the group is valued at almost £4 million.

BP failed to benefit from better than expected first quarter figures with the price losing 13p to 569p. A strong crude oil price and the cold winter weather enabled the



group to increase net income from £461 million to £553 million. The only flat spot was industrial chemicals which suffered a downturn along with other companies in the industry. Brokers were impressed with the group's efforts to improve margins. On Thursday, rival Shell, down 9p at 855p, is due to unveil first-quarter figures.

The reason for the recent strong performance by shares of Gus Carter, the Sunderland bookmaker, has become apparent with the group announcing it is in bid talks with Stanley Leisure. Talks are said to be at an early stage but could result in an agreed bid with the terms pitched above Friday's closing price of 78p. Gus Carter came to market last year with the price pitched at 80p, but the shares were hit in November by a profits warning.

Gus Carter responded to the news with a rise of 6p to 84p, while Stanley Leisure was unmoved at 475p.

BSkyB, the satellite broadcasting channel 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, lost an early lead to close all square at 454p. Third-quarter figures were overshadowed by the news that the group plans to switch to digital broadcasting next year.

Tate & Lyle was a nervous market ahead of figures falling 6p to 476p.

GILTED: The bond market barely stirred as investors waited for a cut in interest rates to coincide with today's monthly meeting between the Chancellor, the Governor of the Bank of England, and the Bank of England. The odds of a cut in rates are the subject of some long prices among market-makers who believe the prospects appear remote.

Investor apathy was clearly reflected in the futures pit where just 17,000 contracts were completed as the price closed unchanged at £104 1/2.

It was a similar story among conventional issues. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was £1 1/2 down at 95 1/2, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was unmoved at £101 1/2.

NEW YORK: A long bond yield still above 7 per cent discouraged investors on Wall Street and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 26.38 points weaker at 5,437.93.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday)	Dow Jones	5,437.93 (-26.38)
S&P Composite		638.58 (-2.23)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	21,498.28 (-107.10)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	10,702.17 (+4.63)
Amsterdam	EOE Index	539.59 (-0.23)
Sydney	AO	2,208.3 (+1.1)
Frankfurt	DAX	2,479.53 (+10.62)
Singapore	Strait Times	2,296.16 (+4.52)
Brussels	General	9,056.81 (+4.67)
Paris	CAC-40	2,083.74 (+4.68)
Zurich	SEA Gen	780.80 (+1.60)
London	FT 30	2,796.4 (-7.1)
	FT 100	3,723.0 (-26.4)
	FT-SE Mid 250	4,525.5 (-10.2)
	FT-SE 100	1,992.0 (-10.2)
	FT-SE Europe 100	1,666.25 (-1.76)
	FT All-Share	1,877.91 (-0.31)
	FT Non Financials	2,022.65 (-0.63)
	FT Food Index	1,114.48 (-0.02)
	FT Govt Secs	91.99 (+0.02)
	Bargains	344.79
	SEAQ Volume	694.3m
	USA (Dow Jones)	2,142.20 (+0.57)
	USA	1,514 (+0.006)
	German Mark	2,299.9 (+0.004)
	Exchange Index	63.9 (+0.2)
	Bank of England official rate	9.00
	LBOR	1.2054
	CDOR	1.51
	151.5 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1997-100	
	150.9 Mar (2.7%) Jan 1997-100	

RECENT ISSUES

AIM Distribution	94	...
Active Imaging	120	...
Calngorm BS IT	923	...
Calngorm Unit Ws	225	...
Cap for C2V (100)	95	...
Cardcast (85)	73	...
FNR	30	...
Harvey Nichols (270)	30	...
MSB International	244	...
Millum & Copt (278)	319	...
Perp Inc & Gth Wrs	19	...
Phosphorus (175)	76	...
Romtec	76	...
Singer & Fnd AIM Ws	11	...
Singer & Fnd AIM	98	...
Stra Bus Svs Ws	11	...
Stra Business Svs	4	...
Stentor	93	...
Telecom GSE Euro	25	...
Tradeport Fnd	185	...
Waterfall (45)	52	...

RECENT ISSUES

Benson Group n/p (40)	5	...
Cap Reg 675% US n/p (1)	1	...
Indl Control n/p (60)	24	...
Knox D'Arcy n/p	1	...
On Demand n/p (180)	5	...
Queensburgh n/p (28)	1	...
Tottenham Hot n/p	90	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:		
Ramsden's (H)	437p (+53p)	
DCS Group	110p (+13p)	
MAID	245p (+23p)	
Chiroscience	500p (+45p)	
Young	580p (+22p)	
Forward Gp	780p (+22p)	
FALLS:		
Northerner	279p (-10p)	
Royal	424p (-13p)	
Sun Alliance	402p (-12p)	
BT Petroleum	589p (-13p)	
BAT	485p (-11p)	
Goldcliff	654p (-10p)	
HSBC	948p (-18p)	
Norblin	550p (-11p)	
Stand Chart	603p (-11p)	
Com Union	605p (-10p)	
Glaxo Wellcome	779p (-21p)	

Closing Prices Page 30

TEMPUS

Put the brakes on Lucas

THE stock market decided yesterday that Lucas was in play and slapped a bid premium on its shares but investors could be disappointed to discover there is no bidder lurking in the wings. In fact, the only obvious buyer of Lucas is the company in which it is currently engaged in talks and all the indications are that these will be lengthy, leading — if all goes well — to some sort of merger or combination of the respective businesses of Varsity and Lucas. Lucas has been talking about the issue of its brakes business for years and it is only now, as the current chief executive departs for GEC, that hard-headed negotiations are underway. Indeed, it is a sore point for Lucas that one of its rivals Bosch has already beaten Lucas to the post, doing the sort of deal that Lucas is contemplating today.

Motor component makers are beginning to

split into two camps: pure component makers supplying bits of cars and larger groups which can not only make brakes but design, engineer and supply a new braking system and possibly fit it to the car plants around the world. The trend to source from all singing and dancing suppliers is accelerating. Lucas lacked expertise in ABS brakes and needed a partner to give it more clout.

Varsity is the dream partner as its Kelsey Hayes business provides expertise in ABS and a big share of the US market and a potential 25 per cent worldwide. The risk for Lucas at this juncture is not that it will flush out a predator — a buyer such as BTR would still face the need of forging an alliance in brakes — but that it will fail to agree terms with Varsity, leaving Lucas sidelined by rivals such as Bosch.

BP

A CONFUSED market just could not make up its mind about BP's figures and in the end decided to mark the oil company down with the rest of the stock market leaders. However, the raw numbers ought to have demonstrated that BP is delivering on its promise to make its assets work harder.

The price of crude oil, cold weather and a decision by British Gas to nominate a lot of BP fields account for good upstream results. More surprising was the better than expected downstream picture.

BP's chemicals division put in a remarkably good performance in the first quarter compared with many of its US peers which suffered downturns because of continuing destocking and rising feedstock prices.

Chiroscience

emerging suggests the easing of gambling restrictions should help. The question is whether Ladbroke, William Hill and Coral will all be in the race a year from now. The odds do not look good.

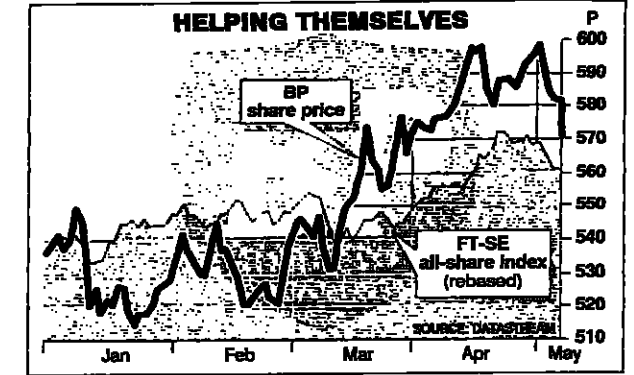
With only 72 shops, Gus Carter was perhaps too small for life in the City spotlight. Within weeks of coming to the market in May last year, the company was doled out by forces — the National Lottery and the weather — that damaged the profits of much larger rivals. The long hot summer (and then the cold winter) caused owners to withdraw horses from races making them less interesting and easier for punters to back winning favourites.

After the last year, it would be easy to take a gloomy view of the UK betting industry. Yet the very success of the National Lottery illustrates the extent of the potential interest in gambling. The US experi-

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Stanley Leisure

ALONGSIDE rumoured bids for Ladbroke and William Hill, Stanley Leisure's takeover of North East bookmaker Gus Carter is a midge of a deal. But it may well mark the start of a shake-out in Britain's betting shop industry.

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Chiroscience

BIOTECH companies are not made like ordinary companies and Chiroscience is no exception. On Friday, its shares closed at 455p. But yesterday it revealed the details of its expected share issue — a 1 for 7 placing and offer at 410p — while at the same time announcing that a 10 per cent shareholder, Schroder Ventures was buying out.

Instead of falling, the shares soared to 500p and this is scarcely surprising. The reasons for the cash call were well known, particularly the decision to go it alone in developing the anaesthetic levobupivacaine and scrap its joint venture with Pharmacia. More exciting to inves-

tors were suggestions that Chiroscience had developed a compound that could improve on Marimastat, the cancer drug developed by British Biotech.

Chiroscience is still years from making money from its drugs so signs of a cash call are seen as good news — the research is yielding products worth developing — rather than weakness. Given the share price rise yesterday, existing holders are looking at an instant gain from their entitlement to new shares.

More questionable is the need to underwrite this issue. With volatile share prices and riding on the success of pure research, biotech companies are almost perfect candidates for non-written deep discount issues. As it happens the underwriters will walk away with £2 million for guaranteeing the value of stock now worth 122 per cent of the issue price. Nice work if you can get it.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISSED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE			
CRUDE OIL (\$/Barrel FOB)			
	May	Jun	Jul
Physical <td>19.45</td> <td>19.35</td> <td>19.30</td>	19.45	19.35	19.30
May 15 day (oil) <td>19.40</td> <td>19.05</td> <td>19.00</td>	19.40	19.05	19.00
Three Intermediate (Jun) <td>21.00</td> <td>21.10</td> <td></td>	21.00	21.10	
Two Intermediate (Jul) <td>20.10</td> <td>20.10</td> <td></td>	20.10	20.10	
PRODUCTS (\$/MT)			
	May	Jun	Jul
Cif NW Europe (prompt delivery)			
Gas Oil	223 1/2	235 1/2	
Gasoline	199 1/2	171 1/2	
5 Fuel Oil	192 1/2	195 1/2	
LIVE FUTURES (GNI L&I)			
	May	Jun	Jul
May	164.50-166.75	162.25	161.50
Jun	164.75-165.00	162.50-162.50	161.50
Jul	164.75-165.00	162.50	161.50
BRENT (\$/Bbl)			
	May	Jun	Jul
May	164.50-166.75	162.25	161.50
Jun	164.75-165.00	162.50-162.50	161.50
Jul	164.75-165.00	162.50	161.50
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Jul	164.75-165.00	162.50	161.50
LIVE FUTURES (GNI L&I)			
	May	Jun	Jul
May	164.50-166.75	162.25	161.50
Jun	164.75-165.00	162.50-162.50	161.50
Jul	164.75-165.00	162.50	161.50
LIVE FUTURES (GNI L&I)			
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LIVE FUTURES (GNI L&I)			
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LIVE FUTURES (GNI L&I)			
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Jul	164.75-165.00	162.50	161.50
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Jul	164.75-165.00	162.50	161.50
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LIVE FUTURES (GNI L&I)			
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Jun	164.75-165.00	162.50-162.50	161.50
Jul	164.75-165.00	162.50	161.50
LIVE FUTURES (GNI L&I)			
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Jul	164.75-165.00	162.50	161.50
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Jul	164.75-165.00	162.50	161.50
LIVE FUTURES (GNI L&I)			
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Jun	164.75-165.00	162.50-162.50	161.50
Jul	164.75-165.00	162.50	161.50
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Jun	164.75-165.00	162.50-162.50	161.50
Jul	164.75-165.00	162.50	161.50
LIVE FUTURES (GNI L&I)			
	May	Jun	Jul
May	164.50-166.75	162.25	161.50
Jun	164.75-165.00	162.50-162.50	161.50
Jul	164.75-165.00	162.50	1

THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Bank Holiday
Shanghaied

PITY the unnamed scribbler on the Lord Mayor's staff at Mansion House, who spent the entire Bank Holiday crafting a memorandum of understanding between London and Shanghai — in Chinese.

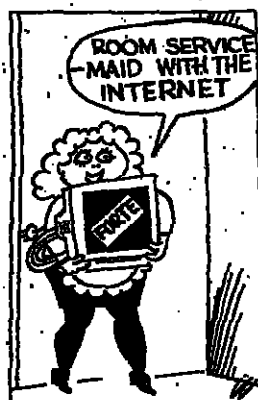
Our hero, formerly with the Foreign Office, was handed his assignment on Friday, and spent the weekend penning glowing phrases about Shanghai's admirable progress as a financial centre.

A duplicate in English and Mandarin was duly presented for signing yesterday. The agreement is expected to ensure favourable treatment for UK companies seeking licences to do business in Shanghai. More mutual back-scratching can be expected when the Lord Mayor visits China in September.

Twin track

MINNIE and Kate Peck have their early arrival at Queen Charlotte's Hospital to thank for their place on the Railtrack share application register. The twins, who were born at 34 and a half weeks, were registered as prospective Railtrack share buyers five days after they were born on April 18, making them the youngest applicants on Sharelink's list.

Had they waited until their due date they would have been too late for last week's registration deadline. Proud father Oliver, who works as a consultant at J.P. Morgan, said that he had registered the whole family as part of his new responsibilities as a family man.



HARRODS BANK is busy buffing its marble interior in anticipation of a visit from the National Bank of Kazakhstan. The delegation of five will include Nailiya Abdullina, the bank's finance director, who is said to carry the country's economy in her handbag. The gang is coming to Knightsbridge to inspect Harrods Bank's banking software package.

Lonesome today

KEVIN Bartholomew, a former Paine Webber broker in Nebraska, has been barred from the securities industry for selling investments in an Elvis Presley impersonation act that he performed in local bars. As a Paine broker he fraudulently sold investments in his own "Memories of Elvis in Concert" to help to cover concert expenses according to SEC lawyer Jacqueline Johnson.

Monkey puzzle

BARCLAYS BANK is offering lessons in cockney rhyming slang for North American investors. A three-month advertising campaign, which is to appear in the on-line edition of *The Wall Street Journal*, will ask readers how to make "monkeys" out of "ponies" by clicking on the sterling sum of their choice.

Discovering that "monkeys" are made "in the UK Gov'nor", readers will move through a series of pages asking them to identify other sterling denominations, including "carpets", "cockles" and "Lady Godiva".

Worldwide, when 40 per cent of overseas investment in the United Kingdom comes from North America.

The State in search of a more caring approach to the aged

Marianne Curphey looks at proposals to tackle the dilemma of long-term provision for the elderly



Shared interests: a Green Paper suggests ways to ease the burden of care in old age

The cost of long-term care is not cheap. A week's stay at a private nursing home now costs an average of £350 to £500, and a single insurance premium to guarantee care for three years is at least £10,000.

The dilemma for Middle England, which the Government attempted to address yesterday with its Green Paper, is that although only one person in five needs such high levels of care towards the end of his or her life, the bills can be crippling.

Yesterday, Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, effectively proposed that the wealthier sections of society should gamble on their homes or their pensions to pay for nursing home fees.

While suggesting ways in which the state and individual might share the burden of long-term care, he gave a warning that the ultimate responsibility for a comfortable old age lay with each citizen.

The proposals, which argue for more flexible pensions and insurance cover, are the result of 12 months of detailed consultation between officials from the Department of Health and private medical insurers, insurance companies and health care staff.

At present, middle-class families are often forced to sell their homes and dispose of their assets to fund care in old age, ending any hopes of passing on an inheritance to their children.

The document was delayed for additions and amendments because it was so politically sensitive, and when finally issued yesterday it was more than four weeks late.

Consultation is likely to last until June or July, with proposals in place before the Budget in November, and the details finalised by next April.

The Government is seeking views from the insurance and personal finance industry on schemes to help people take out insurance against the risk of needing long-term care, and to protect their assets to a value relating to the insurance paid.

The first proposal involves altering pension schemes to allow variable pensions that could be used as income for nursing home fees. On retirement, the individual would

take a smaller yearly income, with the promise of an increase should his health deteriorate in later years.

Five years ago the first such scheme, run by Lincoln National, the insurer, was outlawed by the Inland Revenue for tax reasons.

Tony Solomon, marketing manager of Eagle Star, one of the first insurance companies to introduce private insurance for care of the elderly,

predicted only a small section of the community would be able to take advantage of a change in the regulations. "At present, most people retire on less than a full pension and could simply not afford to take a reduced pension," he said.

His comments were backed by the powerful National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF), whose members are responsible for £300 billion of assets. Peter Murray, chair-

man of its benefits committee, said that the scheme would have limited appeal.

Mr Dorrell's second and more radical proposal is an American-style "partnership scheme", which would protect the assets of a retired person by an amount related to the value of an annuity which they purchase on entering care.

Currently, only four states in the US run such a scheme: Connecticut, New York, Cali-

fornia and Indiana. Around 30,000 Americans have taken out such policies, but recent research suggests that this is a 50 per cent increase on 1993 and the figure would be higher if more states participated. The take-up rate is still relatively low because the scheme requires pensioners to retire in the state in which they bought the benefit, and Florida, the most popular retirement state, is not included.

In Britain, single pensioners with assets of between £10,000 and £16,000 currently have to contribute towards a proportion of the cost of nursing care, while those with more than £16,000 including their homes — have to meet the full bill themselves. These regulations have been criticised for penalising pensioners who save.

Under Mr Dorrell's proposals, the elderly would be given a "disregard" of £1.50 on their assets for every £1 worth of insurance they take out. In effect, this would mean that if they bought insurance worth £40,000 then, together with the £16,000 "disregard" for single pensioners, the state would allow assets worth £56,000 to be left free for inheritance, before it claimed any surplus to cover long-term care costs.

The NAPF believes far more people would benefit from this proposal, although buying insurance with a single premium would cost an average £10,000 per person.

"Although this is a useful measure there needs to be more encouragement for tax-efficient savings through additional voluntary contributions," Mr Murray said. "We would like the Government to change Inland Revenue rules to enable people to save throughout their working lives."

However, there is concern that unless the new products are carefully regulated, there could be a repeat of the pensions mis-selling scandal, in which hundreds of thousands of people were persuaded to buy unsuitable personal pensions.

Currently, long-term care schemes are not regulated by the Financial Services Act of 1986 because they are deemed to be an insurance product, not an investment. This raises the frightening prospect that thousands of people could be sold inappropriate plans, which will leave them inadequately covered in old age.

Bupa, the healthcare provider, is in favour of encouraging brokers to adhere to established minimum standards of selling.

The 430-member Association of British Insurers is proposing a code to ensure that products are suitable, affordable and with no hidden catches.



After sclerosis in Europe, nemesis?

You had to be alert even to detect the earth tremor which shook a few chandeliers in London the other day; but the Romans would have taken such an unusual event as a portent. Of the British Isles edging nervously a little further from Europe, perhaps? Yes, to judge from my post-holiday mail: it is full of dire views of Europe from a whole list of normally non-political City institutions — some in terms which make the Governor sound tame.

HSBC detects a German recession already under way, and deepening, as a threat to British growth. NatWest agrees, but also points out that British trade has switched sharply away from the Continent: exports to Europe 5 per cent down in seven months; outside Europe, up 6 per cent. Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank sees the EMU as unworkable, isolationist, and deflationary, and advises us to keep out. It is Lombard Street Research, which admittedly declared against EMU some time ago, which talks about Euro-nemesis. As they forecast a mark crisis as an overture to a Europe-wide fiscal crunch, the headline is not really over-dramatic. Better off out of it.

Or are we? The UK trends are also pretty forbidding, according to the same witnesses. True, we have pushed through some of the structural changes which are so long overdue in Europe, especially in social spending. We have deregulated (probably to excess), and now have a flexible labour market with moderate settlements; but the competitive performance of the economy still looks — well, British. In plain words, terrible. Geoffrey Dicks of NatWest points out that productivity is at a standstill, while investment has actually fallen over the past year.

Only domestic spending, financed largely by windfalls and excessive government borrowing, has so far saved British industry from joining the European recession. But the result, as usual, is a widening trade deficit, imports up 4 per cent in the last quarter, and no less than 18.5 per cent from outside Europe. So we may be enjoying a traditional ster-

ling crisis even before reality catches up with the mark. All this may be partly due to the policy errors shown up by Anatole Kaletsky last week, but some of the trouble goes much deeper.

Dicks sums it up devastatingly: "The mentality remains firmly cost-plus, with price increases consistently given preference over higher volumes." If you want a picture, simply look at Granada's disgraceful conduct of its Forté acquisitions, prices up beyond the old management's bearing. The old British virus seems to hang about as obstinately as this year's flu. It is more accurately a British management disease, for the foreign-owned companies in this country do not behave in this fashion (and thus help to mask some of the damage). It has persisted for decades through booms, busts, slow and faster growth periods, and it is hard to believe that it would respond simply to better macro-economic management — not in less than a lifetime, anyway.

I reflects bottom-line myopia, an obsession with next quarter's profits which makes it seem sensible to sacrifice long-term growth; seemingly a permanent feature of British-style capitalism. So perhaps Tony Blair is at last saying something important when he declared that City reform will be a top priority for a New Labour government. But what reforms? There are promising hints in plans for a more effective competition policy, and in Alastair Darling's talk of responsible ownership; but otherwise, little to bite on. It would be comforting to hear some future minister showing an unfashionable interest in the Japanese model, which really does show what stakeholding can achieve (as well as how it can come off the rails). Or, indeed, anything specific.

Perhaps they only mean the warring City acronyms: in which case we will go on much as before — possibly our fate in any case. And an unreformed Britain might decline more comfortably in a protected Europe, even a depressed Europe, than exposed offshore.

Why an old-fashioned strike looms large at the Post Office

Postal services are highly profitable but are haunted by the past and the future, says Philip Bassett



The Post Office's far-flung services face disruption

Britain's postal services are heading for their biggest trouble in almost a decade as the Post Office and its principal trade union square up for the industry's first national strike since 1988. Barely has the Post Office drawn a line under the morass into which the Government's botched privatisation plunged it than it is embroiled in a potentially damaging dispute. This at a time when competition has intensified and when the Post Office's longer-term future remains unsettled, dependent on the political process and the outcome of the election.

Both within management and the Communication Workers' Union (CWU), which is this week preparing ballot papers for a national strike vote over pay, productivity and working practices, parallels are being drawn not just with the 1988 dispute, but also with the 1971 postal strike, a seven-week stoppage that nearly bankrupted the postal union.

Employee relations in the Post Office in recent months have been poor. A spate of local disputes has broken out. Within the past 12 months, the Post Office calculates it has lost 61,998 working days through strikes, amounting to almost one-sixth of the total of days lost from strikes throughout the whole of British industry.

While the Post Office is expected soon to declare record profits for the Royal Mail of some £500 million, it is also set for its first price increases for two-and-a-half years.

On July 1 both first and second-class letters go up by 1p, driven, the Post Office claims, wholly by the Government's increasingly voracious demands for the cash generated by the Post Office. Unlike most businesses which used to be in the public sector, the Post

Office makes money: next month's profits will be its twentieth successive subsidy-free surplus.

The Treasury takes money from the Post Office under what is known as the External Financing Limit (EFL), which the consumers' body, the Post Office Users National Council, calls a "tax on stamps."

Mike Heron, Post Office chairman, points out that having taken about £1.25 billion from the Post Office in ten years, the Government now wants almost as much in only three years, a "rocketing" cash demand which he says no other business would have to meet for its shareholders.

Post Office managers are probably rightly sceptical that an incoming Labour government, faced with at least the same pressures on public spending than the current administration, will walk away from the Post Office cash cow.

In the face of increasing competition and with one of the largest workforces in Britain, much of the Post Office's push

is on labour productivity and that is what lies behind the current looming dispute.

Post Office leaders acknowledge that productivity improvements have already been good. In the Royal Mail, it has grown over the past ten years by 33 per cent, almost five times more than the average in service industries.

Even so, CWU leaders charge that in chasing increased productivity by means of greater flexibility, the Post Office has a number of target developments in mind: ending completely second deliveries; shifting the base of Post Office employment from full- to part-time work; and marginalising the CWU from its traditionally strong role inside the business.

Almost a year ago, Royal Mail managers drew together a range of productivity goals into a single package, dubbed Employee Agenda (EA). Both radical and ambitious for the Post Office, it looks dated and already is familiar to most of the private sector.

EA offers a clutch of propos-

als — a new, standard weekly pay rate of £21 which Post Office leaders say could give rises of up to 15 per cent, but which many workers claim will leave them worse off; a job security guarantee, initially up to the year 2000; five days training every year for every employee; a shift from the traditional working over six days to five-day working; and a new productivity scheme.

In return, the Post Office wants changed working patterns, and in particular the adoption of "team working", more co-operative working methods, widely practised in industry, especially manufacturing.

Last autumn, the Post Office's own internal employee attitude survey showed only 24 per cent supported EA, a figure which its latest survey shows has fallen back to 22 per cent.

CWU officials, led by Alan Johnson, joint general secretary and a postman in Slough in the 1971 strike, recommended its acceptance. This was surprisingly rejected by the CWU's postal executive in March.

After some initial wriggling, CWU leaders saw that they had little choice but to enact the postal executive's decision. Instead, they pursued longstanding claims on shorter hours and other issues. Royal Mail managers insist that EA will be implemented one way or another and at last-ditch talks last week rejected the union's claims. They held to the EA agenda, leading the union to authorise its strike ballot.

Here things now stand. Post Office and CWU leaders both acknowledge the depressing similarity of the position in the Post Office to Railtrack two years ago. The resulting signalworkers' dispute was a bitter, bloody and largely pointless battle, with 19 days of strikes spread over four months, widespread business and consumer disruption, ending in a classic compromise.

Post Office managers, at least some CWU leaders, and the business and domestic users of the Royal Mail will be hoping that the issues can somehow be sorted before all that happens again.

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Equities beat a retreat

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0

BREWERS, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
556	480	Alco Dist	480	+2	0.4	12.0
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102	87	Alf	102	+12	7	
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PREVIEW

From the latest muscle-flexin' pistol-packing cinematic exploits of Arnold Schwarzenegger...



PREVIEW

... and a stunning assembly of Velázquez's early paintings at the Edinburgh Festival...

THE TIMES ARTS



PREVIEW

... to the intriguing sight of Zoë Wanamaker playing a dog in a new play by A.R. Gurney...



PREVIEW

... and the thrilling tenor of Roberto Alagna at Covent Garden: our critics pick top summer shows

From Carrey to Caro, from Schoenberg to Schonberg: Times critics offer a choice selection of coming attractions

The summer shows you shouldn't miss

VISUAL ART

Four years after Francis Bacon's death, the greatest British 20th-century painter is finally to be the subject of a grand survey. But the exhibition takes place in Paris rather than London. Nearly 80 outstanding works will be assembled at the Pompidou Centre by the eminent Bacon champion David Sylvester (June 27-Oct 14). They should make our major galleries realise that London needs a large Bacon retrospective soon.

Giacometti and Velázquez, two of the artists Bacon admired most, are also celebrated this summer. The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh will stage Britain's first major overview of Giacometti's work since the Tate survey more than 30 years ago (June 1-Sept 22). Sculptures, paintings and drawings will testify to the uniqueness of his vision, from the disturbing Surrealism of his inter-war period to the frailty of his later elongated figures. Surprises will include Giacometti's youthful work, notably his first painted self-portrait.

Velázquez will be highlighted as the National Gallery of Scotland's major event for the Edinburgh Festival. A complete retrospective of the master's work would be impossible to stage outside Spain, but this show (Aug 8-Oct 20) promises a satisfying exploration of his early years in Seville. The masterpiece is likely to be the National Gallery of Scotland's own marvellous *An Old Woman Cooking Eggs*, but key loans are promised from the Prado, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the Hermitage in St Petersburg.

The most important exhibition by a living British painter will be the Tate's *Leon Kossoff* retrospective (June 6-Sept 1), mounted in his 70th year. His output shows no sign of faltering, either in quantity or quality, and his energy remains unflagging. The powerful recent paintings of Hawksmoor's Christ Church, Spitalfields, situated in the East End neighbourhood where Kossoff grew up, will be placed in the context of 40 years' single-minded achievement: an increasingly impressive exploration of London and its inhabitants.

Some of Britain's outstanding sculptors are being saluted in the most ambitious exhibition ever staged by the Jeu de Paume gallery in Paris (June 6-Sept 15). Ranging from Epstein to Damien Hirst, and including Caro, Cragg, Hepworth, Long, Moore and Whiteread, it promises to be a landmark in France's gradual acknowledgement of modern British art. Six monumental works, among them a specially restored sculpture from the 1960s by Paolozzi, will be installed in the nearby Tuileries gardens.

Meanwhile, at the Hayward, the major American sculptor Claes Oldenburg receives a salute (June 6-Aug 18). More than 150 sculptures, drawings, photographs and films will fill the interior with the witty, alarming and fantastical images produced by a pioneer of American Pop Art — from the "soft" sculptures he produced in the 1960s to the titanic public monuments produced in collaboration with his wife, the writer and art historian Coosje van Bruggen. It should be a provocative and exhilarating spectacle.

RICHARD CORK



An Old Woman Cooking Eggs will be among the Velázquez paintings shown at the National Gallery of Scotland during the Edinburgh Festival

The Royal Opera's energy this summer is devoted to its six-week Verdi Festival, to be launched on June 11 with Luc Bondy's production of *Don Carlos*, so extravagantly admired when seen in Paris earlier this year. Karita Mattila, Roberto Alagna, José Van Dam and Thomas Hampson head the cast, Bernard Haitink conducts, and it is already the hottest ticket in town.

The other new production is *Giovanna d'Arco* (June 24),

starring June Anderson, conducted by Daniele Gatti and directed by Philip Prowse. There are revivals of *Traviata* (July 8) with Alagna and his new wife Angela Gheorghiu (also live on the Big Screen on July 15 and 18), and the controversial *Nabucco* (June 13), plus concert performances of *Alcina* (July 9) and *Il corsaro* (June 18).

English National Opera has two new productions before the season ends: David Leveaux's *Salome* (May 25),

and Nikolaus Lehnhoff's staging of *The Prince of Homburg* (June 22). Henze's setting of the Kleist play.

Outside London, the Welsh National Opera premieres Peter Maxwell Davies's new opera, *The Doctor of Myddfai* (July 10 in Llandudno), to a libretto by David Pountney, who also directs this intriguing folk-tale allegory, and Opera Nova's new production of *The Marriage of Figaro* in Manchester on May 20.

Otherwise it's festival time. Highlights at Glyndebourne include William Christie conducting Peter Sellars's production of Handel's *Theodora* (May 17), with Dawn Upshaw and the amazing US counter-tenor David Daniels making debuts; Graham Vick staging *Lulu* (July 15); and — absolutely unmissable — Gennady Rozhdestvensky conducting Yevgeny Onegin with Elena Prokina (June 7).

Garsington (mid-June) fields an attractive programme of *Albert Herring*, Rossini's *Il turco in Italia* and *Idomeneo*. The excellent Opera Theatre Company of Dublin dominates the Covent Garden Festival with Handel's *Amadigi* at St Clement Danes (May 29), then at Buxton), and a Mozart double-bill (Freemasons Hall, May 30). Adventurous spirits will seek out the premiere of John Woolrich's *In the House of Crossed Desires*, to a libretto by Marina Warner, which launches the Cheltenham Festival on July 6.

And then there's Edinburgh. Note James MacMillan's new opera, *Ines de Castro* (August 23), and Robert Wilson's production from Houston of the Virgil Thomson-Gertrude Stein *Four Saints in Three Acts* (August 29). Spoilt for choice?

RODNEY MILNES

If spring is here, can Arnold Schwarzenegger be far behind? Actually, his new blockbuster, *Eraser*, is out in August. This time he's flesh and blood, a federal marshal wrongly suspected of rubbing out people. Cinema trailers have a horrible habit of making even good films look bad, so we will have to see if the aggressively soulless sampler for *Eraser* is a fair omen.

Other Hollywood big guns are fired during the summer. Usually Britain has to wait an age before Disney's latest cartoon plays here, but *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* will arrive on July 19, a month after its American debut. To what the appetite a Hunchback train is touring the country from May 25, offering a virtual-reality trip to Quasimodo's Paris. The young crowd may also be tickled by

Expect two events to hog the hype this summer. One will be Boublil and Schonberg's musical reworking of a tale that has already spawned two movies. Will Martin Guerre (from July 10, Prince Edward) bring its creators as much success as *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon*? Will the admirable but relatively obscure Iain Glen make as formidable a returning warrior as Gérard Depardieu and Richard Gere, stars of *The Return of Martin Guerre* and *Sommersby* respectively?

The other, rather more important happening is the 50th Edinburgh Festival. This year it includes John McGrath's adaptation of Lindsay's 16th-century masterpiece, *A Satire of the Four Estates*, Peter Stein's production of *Uncle*

Vanya, and the variations on *Hamlet* that Robert Lepage has titled *Elsinore*.

Down in London, the Royal Shakespeare Company is busily importing last year's Stratford offerings for what is, sadly, its last summer season at the Barbican. The plums are Katie Mitchell's spare revival of Euripides's *Phoenician Women* (Fri, from June 29) and Steven Pimlott's over-the-top *Richard III* (June 27). The National presents an oddity: a small-scale *War and Peace* (Cottesloe, June 25), and brings Vanessa Redgrave, Eileen Atkins and Paul Scofield to the Lyttelton in Ibsen's *John Gabriel Borkman* on July 11. Plans for the West End are

less complete, though Donald Sinden could soon be seen there in a new thriller by N.J. Crisp, *That Good Night*, and Zoë Wanamaker will certainly be at the Apollo on May 20 in a most peculiar role. She plays a dog that comes between husband and wife in Sylvia, by the American dramatist, A.R. Gurney Jr. I'll also be eager to discover how Alan Bennett's study of sexual mores, *Habes as Corpus*, responds to Sam Mendes's directorial touch at the Donmar on June 5.

Out of town, the Theatre Royal, York, stages its city's Mystery Plays on June 6 in non-sect, God-as-Goddess style. And Birmingham Rep assays a non-musical Gentle-

men Prefer Blondes (May 21). The RSC's Stratford season offers not only *Macbeth*, *The Comedy of Errors*, and a *Troilus and Cressida* with Joseph Flennes and the brilliant Victoria Hamilton as the star-battered lovers. We also get Peter Whelan's *Herbal Bed* and Richard Nelson's *The General from America*, new plays about Shakespeare's daughter Susannah and the traitor Benedict Arnold respectively. And down in Chichester, there's even more flurry: Peter Ustinov in his own *Boothman's Tent*, Derek Jacobi in *Uncle Vanya*, Dawn French in Priestley's *When We Are Married*, Harriet Walter as *Hedda Gabler*.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

The Brighton Festival has one of the hottest dance events of the spring. Triana Brown, one of America's foremost choreographers, brings her latest work, *MO*, set to Bach's *Musical Offering*, to Brighton (May 17, 18), along with the gorgeous postmodern classic *Set and Reset*, which features a score by Laurie Anderson and multimedia designs by the artist Robert Rauschenberg. A week later the company arrives at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

The Festival Hall, meanwhile, is turning its stage over to contemporary dance for the first time. The honour of filling the vast auditorium goes to the Belgian choreographer Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker and her company Rosas with their large-scale work based on Mozart concert arias, divertissements and piano pieces. Only one British performance, unfortunately — on July 3.

Birmingham Royal Ballet comes to Covent Garden on May 21 with a programme of Brindley ballets: *Carmina Burana*, *Far from the Mad-dling Crowd* and *Still Life at the Penguin Café* — a real audience favourite. English National Ballet, meanwhile, is touring Christopher Dean's new work — the skater's first attempt at choreographing without blades. It arrives at the Festival Hall on June 17.

Rambert Dance Company, Britain's oldest established dance company, celebrates its 70th anniversary with a season at the Coliseum (July 9-13) that features Robert Cohan's intensely beautiful *Subat Mater*, Christopher Bruce's *Rolling Stones* ballet *Rooster*, and a rare revival of Antony Tudor's *Dark Elegies* from 1937, a seminal work of British ballet. And thanks to Granada's £75,000 sponsorship, all the tickets will be under £20. Meanwhile, the Royal Ballet opens its summer season at Covent Garden on July 17 with Sylvie Guillem in *Manon*. *Swan Lake* and Twyla Tharp's *Mr Worldly Wise* also put in an appearance.

Again the dance programme at the Edinburgh Festival is strong. Mark Morris presents the premiere of his new Monteverdi work: *Netherlands Dance Theatre* showcases the choreography of Jiri Kylian; and the Martha Graham Dance Company brings a programme that focuses on her early work, from the Twenties, Thirties and Forties, including *Lamentation* and *Appalachian Spring*.

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CLASSICAL MUSIC

Let's begin with a stunningly obvious suggestion: all music-lovers should head for Edinburgh this summer. The 50th Festival (Aug 11-31) has a glorious programme: lots of Haydn symphonies but also lashings of Schoenberg; terrific visiting orchestras (New York, Cleveland, Russian National, Oslo), and the superb Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra, but also premieres of important living composers like Nunes and Kurtág. Plus starry recitals, and the usual thunderous contributions from the Festival Chorus. I expect that *Gurrelieder* will be audible in Glasgow — and why not?

Further down the East Coast, the Aldeburgh Festival (June 7-23) is turning somewhat in honour of Hans Werner Henze's 70th birthday. The German composer, stronger on intensity than tunes, brings a work never heard before in Britain: a fantasia pitifully titled *Appassionatamente*. No connection with the recent Jilly Cooper blockbuster, I understand.

CINEMA

The Cable Guy, the new movie from ace face-puller Jim Carrey, due on July 12, or *Independence Day*, an epic sci-fi thriller about an attack by old-fashioned aliens (Aug 9). There is also *Mission: Impossible*, a movie edition of the TV spy romp of the late 1960s, directed by Brian De Palma, and starring Tom Cruise (July 5). But will there be anything this summer that demands the use of a brain? Yes. The Coen brothers' *Fargo*, out this month, is rewarding: with this drily comic treatment of a real-life crime in 1980s Minneapolis the slick masters of pastiche have finally made a film with feeling. Away from America, Mike Leigh's *Secrets and Lies*, one of Britain's Cannes

entries, draws out comedy, pathos and satire from a woman's quest to find her natural mother. This is due on May 24.

Connoisseurs should take pleasure in *Le Confessionnal* (June 7), the first cinema venture of theatrical wizard Robert Lepage, which spins a fictional web around Alfred Hitchcock's visit to Quebec to shoot *I Confess*. And any admirer of Antonioni will be anxious to see *Beyond the Clouds* (July 12), the first feature the Italian veteran has completed in 14 years. This quartet of stories about love and desire is something of a folly, but you remain transfixed by Antonioni's sharp visual eye. And at end of August comes Bertolucci's *Stealing Beauty*: small-scale, lyrical and young at heart.

RICHARD MORRISON

Geoff Brown

'Lucy Whybrow's Juliet dominates the stage' **THE STAGE**

'Enthralling...magnificently staged' **THE OBSERVER**

'A thrilling production by Adrian Noble' **THE TIMES**

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POP

All quiet on the Bryan front: the amazingly innocuous Mr Adams just goes on selling albums



MUSIC

Steven Isserlis and other top virtuosos present a celebration of the cello in Manchester

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE

Fenella Fielding goes solo in Hampstead, but who needs a show about an obscure Polish poet?



TOMORROW

How does Felicity Kendal measure up in the new Feydeau staging? Benedict Nightingale gives his verdict

CONCERTS

Bowing to loud applause

EDUCATION, charity, exchange of ideas, technical development: these are all good reasons why some of the world's most distinguished cellists regularly converge on the Royal Northern College of Music. Or so they say. But the real reason is surely the opportunity to play to the most committed, attentive and appreciative of audiences. And it is not just the idols who are warmly received. In the same concert as Steven Isserlis was noisily applauded for a thoughtful and characteristically picturesque performance of Elgar's Cello Concerto, Natalia Gutman was no less enthusiastically acclaimed for an interpretation of Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto which had such gritty integrity that any other audience might have been awed into politeness or bewildered into silence.

The spectacular partnership between Gutman and a similarly inspired Yan Pascal Tortelier with the BBC Phil-

Manchester Cello Festival RNCM

harmonic was one of the factors that released the applause on this occasion.

Another ambition of the director of the festival, Ralph Kirsbaum, is to extend the repertoire. Although neither of the two works he commissioned for the BBC Philharmonic Concert — Dmitri Smirnov's Concerto, Op 74, and Alexander Goehr's *Uninterrupted Movement* — is likely to become a regular feature, both are interesting: the latter for the composer's response to the textual challenge he set himself.

A solo cello, a quartet of cellos, and an unspecified number of other cellos in two parts combine in *Uninterrupted Movement* to present quite extraordinary problems of balance. Remarkably, on its first performance — with Kirsbaum and ten BBC Philharmonic cellos — it failed only in that the solo cello was neither integrated with the others nor set in high profile against them.

There were no problems of balance in the lunchtime recital given by Thomas and Patrick Demenga, the cello's answer to Katia and Marielle Labèque. Sally Beamish's *Duel*, another festival commission, ostensibly sets them in conflict but, entertainingly, it's more a fraternal exchange of repartee than interminable strife. As for Elliott Carter's *Figment* — being given its British premiere — this perfectly proportioned construction is surely a piece that has come to stay.

GERALD LARNER

Is Bryan Adams the mild man of rock? Not in the studio, Alan Jackson reports

Ace face in the crowd

Militantly normal, determinedly anonymous, Bryan Adams is genuinely satisfied that most of us could pass him by without ever suspecting he is a rock star. Now 36 years old, and a recording artist for almost half his life, he has outlasted most of his more profile-conscious peers — in 1991, for example, his *(Everything I Do) I Do It For You* topped the charts here for 16 weeks. Even then, he could have walked up and down the average high street without ever being asked to sign an autograph. "I could fall out of the sky on to most people and still they wouldn't recognise me," he insists.

The instinct is to disbelieve any performer who professes so to love being overlooked when out of the spotlight, but the way in which Adams has run his career to date would appear to substantiate the claim. For example, he has avoided any instinct to use his good looks ("This is a face only a mother could love") for commercial advantage, choosing not to appear in close-up — if at all — on his record sleeves. "I don't want that kind of commercial success," says the Ontario-born singer, writer and guitarist, for some years resident in London. "It suits me fine that the public is familiar with my name and my music, but not with how I look."

Until recently, he has been faceless even within the corridors of A&M, his record company for almost two decades. "I signed with them in 1978, so long ago that I've outlived almost everyone there, including the chairman — only Sting predates me," he says. "And somehow, I never really developed a relationship with anybody there. They never seemed to be particularly interested in me or what I was doing. Every now and then I'd deliver a finished piece of work and it would be a question of, 'Oh, right. We've got the new Adams album'. There seemed to be no concerted marketing or press effort."

Gradually, though, his British residency has enabled those now in place at his label to get to know him — trips to watch a Chelsea home game, the occasional dinner, that sort of thing. "Even so, creatively they've still had no influence whatsoever," he says bluntly, when asked if this thaw has affected the make-up of *18 Tilt I Die*, his first new studio album for four years.

The near-defensive reply hints at another facet to the otherwise resolutely low-key image that he prefers to project. There is a steely professionalism, even an arrogance, about him which surfaces only when his creative judgment is called into question.

In addition to being a fine and distinctive pop-rock singer, Adams has a particular facility for writing melodic, anthemic ballads, and it seemed only a matter of time before he was asked to write and produce for other artists. One industry giant to spot this potential was Clive Davis, president of Arista, who drafted him in to handle a track for Carly Simon's 1987 comeback album, *Coming Around Again*. Simon says the experience represented a creative low-point for her — the two men's insistence that she perform the song the way they wanted, rather than following her own instincts, undermined her confidence at a time when she felt vulnerable.

"Listen," Adams interrupts at the mention of Simon's name, "and this is not off the record, OK? She went to the press afterwards saying that working with me was worse than watching her former husband [James Taylor] come off heroin — I've got a clipping of it. No, you haven't touched a nerve at all — in



Put a face to the fame: "I could fall out of the sky on to most people and still they wouldn't recognise me"

fact, I was quite flattered by that. And it was quite a good experience technologically, trying to complete a track she never even finished singing before she stormed out of the studio. It wasn't a nightmare, and I thought she was really nice. It's just that there seemed to be a lot going on for her at the time and I bore the brunt, because I didn't know how to handle her."

It proves not the best time to ask about his experience the previous year of producing a Grammy-winning Tina Turner track, *Back Where You Started*. "You'd have to ask Tina what she thought," he says, then adds, rather more tellingly: "For me, the end

result was always very satisfying. But I gave up producing other artists after the experience with Tina. I don't want to deal with that stuff any more."

"My whole ethic when in the studio is to make it as good as it can possibly be. With a lot of artists, though, it's, 'Hey, I just sang it, OK? Now I'm going shopping'. And I just don't want to work with people like that."

Adams is an infrequent interviewee, and this is his first encounter with the media to discuss his new album. Perhaps his original insistence that we talk at the mixing desk of this west London recording studio (and hence with an audience of engineers and

record company personnel) was to cover an initial unease. Certainly, after suggesting that we move to a quieter room, he relaxes considerably, and becomes engaging company. He is, he insists, happier with *18 Tilt I Die* than with any of its predecessors, is looking forward to the experience of touring this summer, hopes to record shortly with Brian Setzer, formerly of the Stray Cats. When a studio hand arrives with his order of baked potato and beans, however, Adams's concentration collapses. An ordinary man indeed.

● A single, *The Only Thing That Looks Good On Me Is You*, is released by A&M on May 20. *18 Tilt I Die* is released on June 4

Motley assembly from Moldavia

OPERA

Cavalleria rusticana/Pagliacci Royal Centre, Nottingham

IT WAS only a matter of time before the Moldavian National Opera visited this country, and with its debut here on Sunday it joined the long list of former Eastern bloc companies and orchestras trawling for hard currency.

The company was formed almost 40 years ago and it now occupies a monolithic theatre in the Moldavian capital, Kishinev. This touring *Cavalleria rusticana* and *Pagliacci* reveal standards as one would expect: exciting voices mixed with the kind that excite only ear, nose and throat specialists, and wooden drama sometimes rescued by individual performances.

Whatever its weaknesses, the company performs a useful service at home — and it will do so too in many towns on this tour that are customarily deprived of full-scale opera. But it was not shown to advantage by opening in Nottingham in a Royal Concert Hall that allowed only a semi-staging: most of the performances will have full scenery.

Cav did not begin well. Alexandru Samoilă, a conductor with good theatrical instincts, presided over out-of-tune playing, and the Turiddu (Nicolae Busuinoac) sang with a tenor like worn sandpaper. Eleonora Constantinov had deployed the props and chorus

in dull, symmetrical formations. But singing talent emerged: Natalia Cibotaru was a powerful Santuzza with a Slavonic glint to her soprano, and Liliana Lavric's flirtatious Lola matched real acting with an exciting voice.

The ladies' voices were free of the wobble one expected, and in *Pag Oana* Cobzev was a striking Nedda. Igor Macarenco's tenor was threadbare, but as Canio he poured feeling into *Vesti la giubba*. Vladimir Dragos's Tonio sang a powerful Prologue, helped by a stronger director, Eugen Platon. The full-throated chorus has its moments. This is a real ensemble company, and singers are lined up to alternate in roles: finding an even cast may be like Moldavian roulette, but this double bill ought to appeal to connoisseurs of old-fashioned operatic values.

JOHN ALLISON

Hit and miss

Miss Julie Lyric, W6

THE recent popularity of Strindberg's *Miss Julie* is a remarkable phenomenon. When Julia Hollander decided on Margareta Hallin's musical setting of the play two years ago to launch her new company, Operate, she could not have known that the British premiere would come in the wake of no fewer than three versions of the work.

Hollander's productions at the ENO and elsewhere have suggested a highly promising talent. Operate is a company that has a great deal to offer. Whether the decision to launch it with *Miss Julie* was a wise one is more questionable.

Strindberg's heady fin-de-siècle cocktail of sexual and class tensions achieves its explosive effect by being pared to the bone. Hallin's opera takes over lines intact from the play, in Michael Robinson's translation, but it is difficult to see what any musical setting could add.

Her astringent, ascetic score (played excellently by a string quartet under Philip

Headlam) accurately mirrors the dense polyphony of the play. Attempting to replicate the conversational mode of the original, however, it denies itself the possibility of heightening the drama: there are no soaring melodic lines and few memorable moments.

Hollander's production, designed with a strong feel for the milieu by Dody Nash, and lit skilfully by Paul Russell, succeeds in capturing many of the nuances of the text. Richard Halton, wonderfully secure of tone, projects a formidable character as the socially ambitious valet Jean, while Janet Mooney's Miss Julie oscillates tellingly between aristocratic arrogance and deep-seated psychological insecurity. The production runs until May 18.

BARRY MILLINGTON

FRINGE THEATRE: Wheels fall off star vehicle; mad mother is murder

Polish dull under the veneer

Fenella Fielding is performing a one-woman play. Still looking like a Siamese cat, she is acting the part of Maria Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska. Maria (at the New End, NW3) is a monologue recalling the life of the poet and dramatist who scandalised and satirised Polish society. Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska bridged the gap between Neo-Romanticism and Futurism, feared authoritarianism, advocated love, and died in Manchester in 1945. Here we see the writer talking us through her history from hospital, where she finally gives up the ghost.

Sadly, this piece is a none too successful star vehicle. Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska is rather obscure to celebrate in this country. This imagined autobiographical address, originally written in Polish by Anna Maria Grabania, scarcely discusses the literary works. Maria paints a portrait of the cultured glitziest of Cracow, but then basically runs through her various marriages and affairs. She consequently seems a shallow character.

Fielding does declaim verses occasionally. Some are striking, notably a light yet telling poem defining an ideal soulmate (successfully translated by Barbara Plebanek and Tony Howard). But the extracts are unintegrated. Fielding, moving into chameuse mode, goes rhythmically awry and struggles to remember so long a soliloquy. She has wryness and relish but, frankly, more mannerisms than emotions in this portrayal.



Fenella Fielding: "More mannerisms than emotions" in one-woman show

At the Hen and Chickens in Islington, Matthew Camppling's new play *Sweetest Gift* centres on a young man, Colin, torn between his nearest and dearest. These are his girlfriend Sandra; Jenny, the friend with whom he moves in and begins a gay relationship; and his mother Pat. With a history of mental illness, Pat now lives in her own flat but is hardly self-

sufficient. She is fiercely protected by Colin, but drives him round the twist with her impossible, possessive behaviour.

Camppling portrays the stresses surrounding care in the community and coming out as a homosexual. A psycho killer scenario emerges on top of this. Colin reacts violently to both clutchy relationships and to being chucked. He begins with hitting Sandra. Subsequently, as bits of the story fall into place within a flashback framework, we gather there has been a crazed attack with a baseball bat, and, finally, that Colin has done violence to himself in prison.

The main problem with Camppling's production is awkward acting. Daniel McKenna isn't bad as Colin. His shortcoming is that he does not emanate physical explosiveness. Georgina Burns is having difficulty getting a grip on Sandra, playing the comedy at the expense of her character's angry confusion.

Pat, at once mad and manipulative, could have dramatic potential, but this play is not quite fully formed. The baseball bat is clumsily introduced. The plot flops in an odd dream sequence and a lone snatch of courtroom evidence late in the day. More realistic detailing in these people's conversations, and, indeed, their home furnishings (Pat currently kips on a blue cube) might smooth over the bumps.

KATE BASSETT

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16 - TOLET

High Baroque advertises Manton's classic strength

By Richard Evans
RACING CORRESPONDENT

A HORSE whose modest breeding precluded a Derby entry duly routed a field of Epsom candidates in the Chester Vase yesterday — and underlined Peter Chapple-Hyam's outstanding chance of winning the world's most famous flat race next month.

High Baroque is considered inferior to the likes of Nash House, Astor Place and Heron Island at Manton but he came from last to first inside the final quarter mile of the Derby trial to beat five rivals with an entry for the Epsom classic.

The length and a quarter victory over St Mawes came half an hour after Legal Right, another Chapple-Hyam-trained Derby entrant, had won the Grosvenor Maiden Stakes and the two results offer the Manton handler an invaluable guide as he prepares to unleash his best Derby hopes.

Nash House, backed down to 5-4 on the strength of a Newbury maiden victory last month, goes for the Dante Stakes at York next Wednesday, while Astor Place will take on the Henry Cecil-trained Dushyant in the Michael Seely Glasgow Stakes the following day. Heron Island is due to line up for the Lingfield Derby Trial on Saturday.

As bookmakers shuffled their ante-post odds, perhaps the most enticing bet is the 3-1 offered by Mike Dillon of Ladbrokes against Peter Chapple-Hyam winning the Epsom classic.

According to Robert Sangster, who has more than a passing interest in the respective merits of the Manton inmates, the batting order reads: 1. Nash House (the only horse Sangster does not own



High Baroque holds St Mawes in the Chester Vase. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

or have a share in); 2. Astor Place; 3. Heron Island; 4. High Baroque; 5. Legal Right. However, he added an important caveat yesterday: "Nash House this morning and if anything, worked a little bit the better of the pair." Within minutes of those remarks the 33-1 Coral had been offering was quickly trimmed to 20-1. The form of Astor Place's victory in a Newmarket maiden last autumn now looks outstanding. Legal Right, yesterday's winner, was second, followed by Santillana, the winner of the Thresher Classic Trial, while fourth-placed Dombey has achieved a run-away success at Kempton.

Chapple-Hyam has been a fan of the Sadler's Wells colt ever since he came into the yard but he admitted Nash House probably has "the extra sparkle" although there is a question mark over his ability to get a mile and a half. "He is bred on the same lines as Spectrum and is not guaranteed to get a mile and a half, but the way he is at home I am hopeful he will get the trip."

St Mawes appeared ill at ease going around the Roodey and John Dunlop may run the Lord Swaythling-owned colt in the Predominate Stakes at Goodwood. "He's a horse that needs the experience. He is still learning. We are still hoping he is worth

running in the Derby and we might go to Goodwood to teach him something." Sangster always enjoys coming to Chester but he confirmed one of the reasons why he is having several runners at this meeting is the excellent ground — in stark contrast to that on offer at Newmarket. "Nick Lees [clerk of the course at Newmarket] should come here and see the ground. It is superb. I saw what Angus Gold said about the false ground at Newmarket and I agree completely. We messed a lot of horses up in the Craven meeting so I decided to have 16 runners in the North and nothing at Newmarket."

Blaze Away looks warm order in Chester Cup

CHESTER
CHANNEL 4

2.40: Despite being poorly drawn, Vasari should take all the beating. He was caught inside the final 100 yards over Sandown's stiff five furlongs on his debut after showing plenty of pace. This sharp five furlongs is ideal and given his early speed, Mick Channon's well-regarded colt should be able to overcome a wide draw. None of the others with racecourse experience looks anything special and two youngsters, Rainbow Rain and the Peter Chapple-Hyam-trained Raven Master, are likely to pose the biggest threats.

Nap: OVERRULED
(2.10 Chester)
Next best: **Blaze Away**
(3.40 Chester)



winning from the front and may not be able to dominate here. Merit improved dramatically when stepped up in trip last autumn and looks handily weighted, but Blaze Away must be the choice at around 10-1. Twice a winner off today's handicap mark last year, Ian Balding's fast ground-loving stayer ran a cracker in the mud mired Shadivart on Doncaster. A winner over hurdles at Ascot last week, today's trip and strong pace should be ideal.

3.10: Solar Crystal, winner of the May Hill Stakes last season before finishing good third in the Prix Marcel Bousquet, is the clear form choice and Henry Cecil's front-running filly is sure to go close. However, this race has a habit of being won by lightly-raced sorts, including five maidens during 11 years. Smailin N Wishin, third to Air Quest, will have her supporters, along with Alessandra and the unbeaten Shemzo.

3.40: Fujiyama Crest, a course winner over two miles last year, is strongly fancied after an encouraging seasonal reappearance at Ripon 11 days ago. Michael Stoute's handicapper has done all his

4.10: Wildwood Flower put up an improved performance on her seasonal reappearance at Newmarket, showing plenty of dash to lead at the furlong marker. She was caught inside the final 100 yards but stayed on resolutely and recorded a decent time. Richard Hannon's filly should be at home around this tight circuit.

The handicapper has taken no chances with the unbeaten Angaar, but Alec Stewart's runner could be open to further improvement now that he steps up to six furlongs. He rates the main danger from the favoured No 11 stall. Air Wing would appreciate easier ground.

RICHARD EVANS

CHESTER

THUNDERER
2.10 Three Hills
2.40 Vasari
3.10 Solar Crystal
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.10 Milky Bay, 3.40 Fujiyama Crest, 4.10 ANGAAR (nap).

GOING: GOOD
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
2.10 CHESHIRE RESERVE HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,968: 1m 4f 69y) (13 runners)

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102 (10) 02-1 BENTON 10 (J) (P) (A) M J Johnston 9-7
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BETTING: 4-1 Overrule, 5-1 Blaze Away, 10-1 Solar Crystal, 10-1 Milky Bay, 10-1 Angaar, 10-1 Fujiyama Crest, 10-1 Vasari, 10-1 Raven Master, 10-1 Rainbow Rain, 10-1 Shadivart, 10-1 Shemzo, 10-1 Alessandra, 10-1 Smailin N Wishin, 10-1 Air Quest, 10-1 Wildwood Flower, 10-1 Angaar, 10-1 Blaze Away, 10-1 Solar Crystal, 10-1 Milky Bay, 10-1 Angaar, 10-1 Fujiyama Crest, 10-1 Vasari, 10-1 Raven Master, 10-1 Rainbow Rain, 10-1 Shadivart, 10-1 Shemzo, 10-1 Alessandra, 10-1 Smailin N Wishin, 10-1 Air Quest, 10-1 Wildwood Flower, 10-1 Angaar, 10-1 Blaze Away, 10-1 Solar Crystal, 10-1 Milky Bay, 10-1 Angaar, 10-1 Fujiyama Crest, 10-1 Vasari, 10-1 Raven Master, 10-1 Rainbow Rain, 10-1 Shadivart, 10-1 Shemzo, 10-1 Alessandra, 10-1 Smailin N Wishin, 10-1 Air Quest, 10-1 Wildwood Flower, 10-1 Angaar, 10-1 Blaze Away, 10-1 Solar Crystal, 10-1 Milky Bay, 10-1 Angaar, 10-1 Fujiyama Crest, 10-1 Vasari, 10-1 Raven Master, 10-1 Rainbow Rain, 10-1 Shadivart, 10-1 Shemzo, 10-1 Alessandra, 10-1 Smailin N 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YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

women to work alongside people in poorer countries in order to abilities and promote *international understanding and action*, in equitable world.

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BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

When Steve Elworthy introduced himself with a long hop, cut for four by Ben Smith, the

Speak, included only because of John Crawley's bruised thigh, batted with great assurance and Fairbrother, troubled earlier by his recurrent hamstring problem, with growing command. It was eventually straightforward, but Leicestershire will know it should not have been.

Fairbrother, of Lancashire

This was Surrey's third victory, enough, almost certainly, to take them into the quarter-finals. There was not much doubt that they would achieve it, or once Brown was into double figures, that their batting would be fun to watch. Drakes were viciously nulled

nothing of a new county and the television cameras. He took the opportunity, bowling Speight and having Greenfield caught at the wicket fencing at one that lifted outside off stump.

After 15 overs, Sussex had laboured to 38 for three. The manner in which Julian ran

recruited off spinner, that he looked to put beyond the reach of cover, Jarvis batted as if realising, at last, that he is an all-rounder in the making. He struck 38 off 19 balls, including, in sequence from Pearson's final over, 6 (broken window), 4, 4, 6 and, inevitably, out.

By SIMON WILDE

Although Ambrose was most economical, the winners had Taylor to thank for the wickets. He finished with figures of five for 45, his best in one-day cricket, and took his tally of victims this season to 18 in five matches. There was also a typically frugal contribution from Emburey.

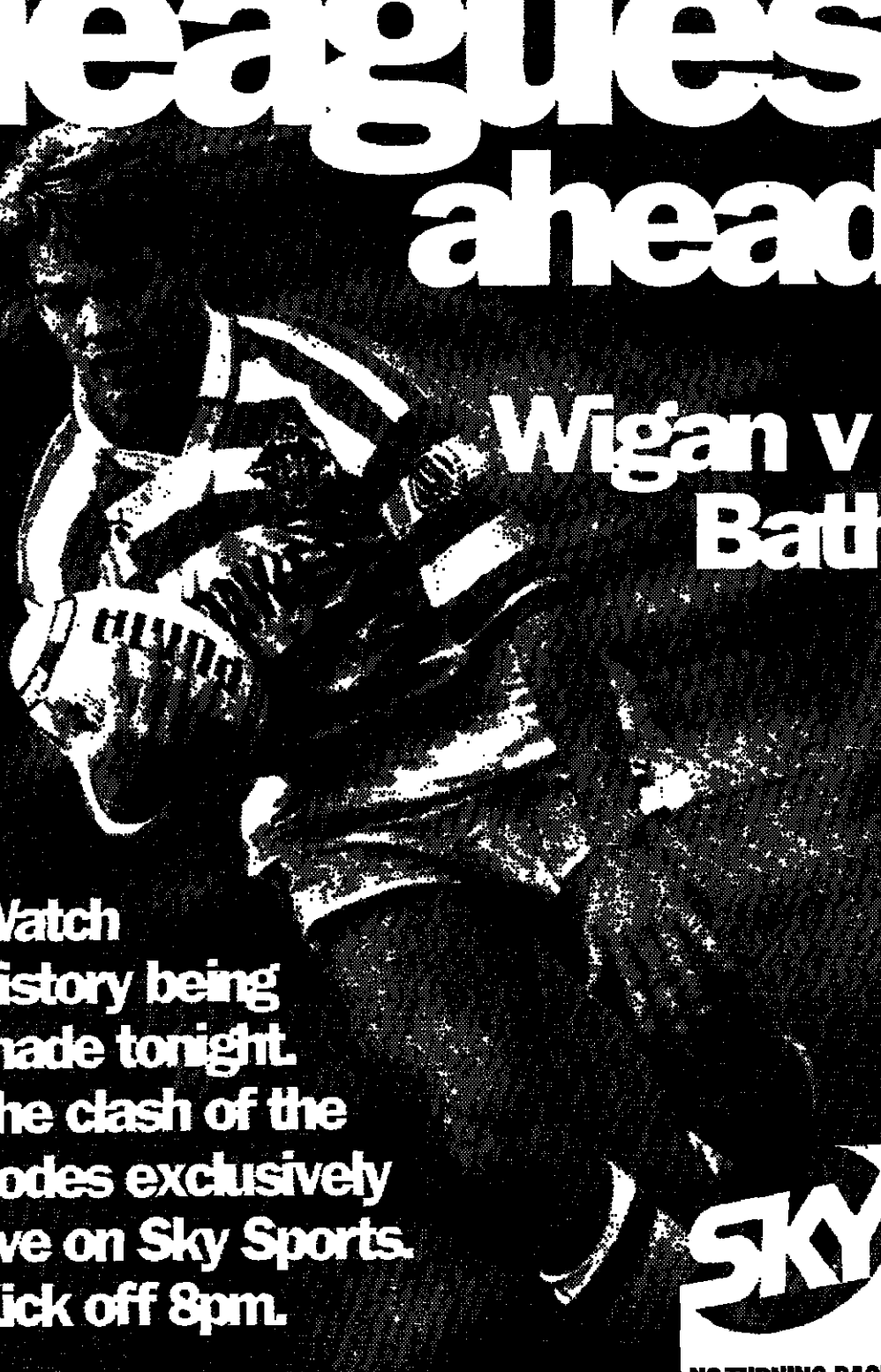
By PAT GIBSON

Fleming launched Kent's reply in his usual forthright manner but it was Ward more sedate than usual with 51 off 89 balls, and Hooper who hit a six and four fours who appeared to have made victory a formality until the middle order lost its way.



Needing 272 to keep alive their hopes of a quarter-final place, Somerset were in trouble at 209 for seven before being rescued by an unbroken partnership between Robert Turner and Keith Parsons, that got them home with seven balls to spare.

Sherwin Campbell, the West Indies opening batsman, spent 90 minutes making 27 on his Durham debut but could afford to take his time for only 158 were required to beat Minor Counties at Chester-le-Street.



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Kings of the wildly extravagant frontier

Ever since the Berlin Wall came down, thriller writers have been in a hole. Border crossings, in particular, have lost a lot of their old frisson. But leave it to the all-embracing cop drama to revive the form. Cop shows can be comedies, soaps, whatever you like, and last night's new cop-in-conflict *Frontiers* (ITV) was stylish, moody, dark and cinematic, and for the first 30 minutes appeared to be taking place in a paranoid hypothetical world, something like *Blade Runner*. It was quite confusing, actually. "We're crossing the border," said grim-faced cop from South Morton (fictional English county), and the big sign "You are now entering West Morton" passed their vehicle in the rainy dark, they seemed to press their backs into their car seats, while the music got louder.

South Morton and West Morton are not names to conjure with, and I suppose that is the point. Created

by Sandy Welch and Stephen Pollakoff, *Frontiers* is supposed to highlight the strikingly different policing styles in bordering counties, where you might expect the same treatment from both. Thus, the set-up is this: Peter Howitt and Kevin McNally play two superintendents (one West, one South) who dislike each other and disagree about procedure. One is old-fashioned and ruggedly handsome, working on instinct; the other is Mister Technology, whose car tells him the air temperature (handy), and whose idea of solving a kidnapping involves sitting in the control room of Cape Canaveral, tapping keys very fast. If an analogy for this duo is required, it comes from *Toy Story*. Howitt is Woody, the lovable cowboy; McNally is the South Lightyear, complete with wrist-laser. (I hope this analogy is helpful.)

But the sky-high production values have made *Frontiers* com-

pletely unbelievable, which is a shame. Sandy Welch's excellent script last night was sophisticated enough to tease us with cliché, and also leave things fairly messy at the end, with both cop styles proved right as well as wrong. The chase for a kidnapper was exciting, the minor characters beautifully played. But the moribund interiors of the police HQ, like a futuristic building society, full of white light, must surely have caused real policemen to crack their ribs with ho-hos.

One of last night's key moments concerned the sudden appearance of an American psychological profiler, invited by Buzz. "They are always wrong!" said Woody, and stomped out. Well, tell that to the arts programmes, which last night coincidentally ventured to psychoanalyse two icons of British culture

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

in their absence — first Francis Bacon in *The Works* (BBC2) and then the Princess of Wales in *Without Walls* (Channel 4). Actually, if you're thinking I'm mad myself, the Diana programme was pulled, which was a shame. Having seen it by mistake, I can tell you that the laugh value of Di's outfits — turning up for analytic sessions improbably in a gym kit — was considerable.

But the analytic approach proved entertainingly useful in both cases. In the programme that did go on, Darian Leader asked whether Bacon's famous "Screaming Pope" series meant something deeply personal to the artist, and was pleased (though surely unsurprised) to discover that — of course — it went very deep indeed. Full fathom five your father lies, as the saying is. Because the original Pope picture that obsessed Bacon — Velázquez's *Innocent X* — bore a strong resemblance to Bacon's dad, Spocky, eh?

Thus, the stream of those purple Popes related to his father's anger. "He was a man prone to rage," said a cousin, and also to a complex of feelings about Bacon's childhood asthma, and the death of his brother. I couldn't quite follow this bit, but somehow the gaping of the figures could be seen as breathing and suffocating rather than yelling. Personally, I still

think they are yelling. And I still think, incidentally, that an important part of the image is the electric chair he's sitting in (and gripping the arms of), with the voltage turned up high.

Finally to Floyd in Africa (BBC2), which I watched in the fervent hope that *Times* columnist Matthew Parris wasn't likewise tuning in. Recently Parris wrote in *The Spectator* about the artifice of so-called factual television, and his piece was deeply heartfelt: this was definitely a full-blooded scream, not a sharp intake of breath. His point, as I recall, was that the artifice of broadcasting is insidious: television-makers consider it innocent (indeed, simply necessary) to stage events for the camera, and thus they become so accustomed to scripting reality that finally they don't know (or care) that they are telling lies.

Well, all I can say is, don't ever watch Keith Floyd, Matthew Parris's train "breaking down" last night on a hillside in Madagascar — at the exact point where it was accompanied by Floyd saying: "This is actually real." Good grief, they think we are idiots. No amount of open-air wot-stirring can make up for that sort of malarkey. Even if the event really did take place, that handy footage from the trackside shows utter contempt for the audience. By re-staging it for the cameras (if this is what happened), they cheerfully turn a real event into a false one.

Call me Queen Tut of the Tut-people, but it all gets too much sometimes. Later, Floyd made a big deal about cooking at sundown (unseen shots of Madagascar sunset), and then served his meal on a veranda in broad daylight. How do they do that? It's what they call the magic of television.

CHOICE

East: On the Run

BBC2, 7.30pm

The current affairs series on Asian matters continues to offer reporting of a high standard, though supporters of the Asylum and Immigration Bill may not agree. Matthew Amroliwala tests the assumptions behind British asylum policy by looking at the experiences of Sri Lankan Tamils. Many have fled to Britain to escape the civil war, yet despite evidence they can provide of being tortured or detained without trial, their requests for asylum are seldom granted. The Home Office view is that it is safe for them to return to Colombo, though lawyers claim that the detention and brutalisation of Tamils is worse than ever. The film also asks whether new legislation is needed when asylum applications, and the success rate, have been falling so sharply.

Sharpe: Sharpe's Siege

ITV, 8.00pm

The French are up to their devious tricks again but Sean Bean and his gallant Brits refuse to be fooled. Bernard Cornwell's saga of the Napoleonic Wars continues to be a Euro-sceptic's delight. There is no nonsense here about the sturdy Brits being humiliated by capricious foreigners. The two-hour slot might stretch a less incident-packed drama, but there are enough plots and subplots, not to mention a battle or two, to fill the time and more. Up to now Bean's dashing and dilsy Major Sharpe has kept free of romantic attachments, enabling him to play the field. All that ends when he marries Jane (Abigail Cruttenden). But she soon contracts the fever which is going the rounds and may not survive for hubby's return from his daring raid on a French castle. Meanwhile, a pushy new commanding officer provides Sharpe with an adversary nearer home.

Modern Times: Househusbands

BBC2, 9.00pm

Identify a recent social trend, find three neatly contrasting examples to illustrate it, and you have the model formula for a documentary. Sonoma White's film about men who stay at home while their wives go out to work does not disappoint. It helps that the couples involved are prepared to speak honestly. This particularly applies to Nick and Clare. He was a merchant banker who was made redundant and unable to get another job. As he understandably became depressed and vegetated, she found herself having to support the family. Although making wedding dresses is something she enjoys, the role-reversal is clearly not to her liking and marriage has come under strain. Still shell-shocked after five years without work, he can only reflect that many men are finding the 1990s confusing.

Postcards from the Country: The Village

BBC2, 9.50pm

Richard Mabey's series was made by the BBC Natural History Unit but is more about people than flora and fauna. Through personal memories, film and photographs, it sets out to chart changes in British rural life over the past 50 years. Mabey begins in Kent, where senior citizens conjure up an idyllic past of cherry orchards, traditional dancing round the maypole and cricket on the green. Some of this survives but the Eurostar train pounding through the countryside past redundant castles is to many a potent symbol of unwelcome change. Even so, you wonder whether the supposedly good old days were really that tranquil. The film is recounted here, between the locals and the hop-pickers who poured in each summer from the London East End, suggesting that even in the Garden of England village life has darker side.

Peter Waymark

6.00am GMTV (8620974)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (7743663)

9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (2300224)

10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (6645601)

10.35 This Morning (50077598)

12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (1074886)

12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (4736359)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (204750)

1.25 Coronation Street (s) (Teletext)

(1020601) 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (1995427)

2.25 FILM: Always Remember I Love You (1990) starring Patty Duke, Stephen Dorff and David Barney. The first of a two part drama about a teenager whose world begins to crumble when he discovers that the people he thought were his mother and father are not his biological parents. Concludes tomorrow. Directed by Michael Miller (768953) (4704750)

3.20 News headlines (Teletext) (7029798)

3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (2020608)

3.30 Alphabet Castle (s) (2833969)

3.40 Widdowson (s) (1459750) 3.50 Brit Allcroft's Magic Adventures of Mumtaz Ali (s) (8233935) 4.05 Garfield and Friends (s) (6149392) 4.10 The Adventures of Captain Zeigler (s) (6149392) 4.40 Spelbinder (Teletext) (2407514)

5.10 A Country Practice (9987311)

5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (596917)

6.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (s) (189750)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (767934)

7.00 Wish You Were Here...? Lesley Joseph cruises around the Caribbean on a new luxury liner, Judith Chalmers embarks on a four-wheel-drive treasure hunt in Langgollen, Chyd, and John Carter visits Savannah, Georgia (Teletext) (s) (4595)

7.30 Coronation Street. Alec tries to bolster Vicky's morale (Teletext) (663)

8.00 Sharpe: Sharpe's Siege (Teletext) (s) (6068)

10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (86243)

10.30 Regional News and weather (825175)

10.40 FILM: La Bamba (1987). Musical biopic starring Lou Diamond Phillips as the young Mexican-American Richie Valens. Directed by Luis Valdez (s) (1299898)

12.35 God's Gift (8621712) 1.35 Dear Nick (1228828) 2.35 Bushell on the Box (s) (s) (3479828)

3.05 FILM: Dogs to the Rescue (1968) starring Tony Kramelthor, Dorine Dron and Draga Oleguina. A man arranges for his brother to die in a car crash, so that he can take over the family property. Directed by Paul Fritsch-Nemeth (758462)

4.30 The Time... the Place (s) (s) (53660)

5.00 Cover Story (s) (59335)

5.30 Morning News (77644)



Sean Bean as Major Sharpe (8.00pm)

As HTV West except:

6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (767934)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.25-12.30 My Story Brian Coomes, a bard of the Gorsedd (1082885)

12.55 Coronation Street (4704750)

1.25-1.55 Cross Wits (31477953)

1.55 Home and Away (3975986)

2.25 Brief Encounters. Ruth Langford sails up the River Exe (1998514)

2.55-3.00 A Country Practice (6782798)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9987311)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (98578)

10.40 Robert Lenkiewicz: Demon or Delight? An assessment of the controversial Plymouth-based artist, centred at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth (817448)

11.40 Hunter (917205)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.25 Home and Away (4704750)

1.25 Cross Wits (31477953)

1.55 A Country Practice (6942224)

2.20 Right or Wrong (1999243)

2.50-3.20 Our House (2513243)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9987311)

6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (767934)

10.40 FILM: Farewell to the King (1299868)

12.35am Bushell on the Box (866288)

2.10 Dear Nick (9271460)

3.05 In Focus (2358460)

3.50 Jobfinder (2137063)

5.20 Asian Eye (3211712)

As HTV West except:

12.55pm Coronation Street (4704750)

1.25 Home and Away (31477953)

1.55 Shortland Street (6942224)

2.20 Murder, She Wrote (7269682)

3.15-3.20 Three Minutes — Making it Happen (702885)

5.10 Home and Away (9987311)

5.37-5.40 Three Minutes — Freescreen (302652)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (427)

6.30-7.00 Animal Country (779)

10.40 The Road Show (622514)

11.10 Meridian Audit (419088)

12.00am Good Advice (371538)

5.00 Freescreen (59335)

Starts: 6.35 Sharkey and George (5366175)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (23359) 9.00 The Pink Panther (7771446) 9.25 Film: Lydia (1498224)

11.15 Hotel Hawkstone (5594885) 11.30 Australia Wild (2595) 12.00 House to House (83156) 12.30pm Westerners (11427) 1.00 Slot Machine (28448) 1.30 Poo Mans Pig (3977217) 1.55 Bush Tucker Man (1436040) 2.30 Channel 4 Racing From Chester (72156) 4.30 Classic Trucks (578) 5.00 P. P. P. C. (45082) 5.15 P. P. P. C. (45082) 5.30 Fifteen to One (416759) 7.00 P. P. P. C. (45082) 7.25 Porters: Iswyn Flow: Ella (430412) 7.30 Hawilo (1885) 8.30 Newyddion (6232) 9.00 Encounters: Plague Doctors (3359) 10.00 Brookside (84885) 10.30 E.R. (48068) 11.30 Cymyl (75224) 12.00 Nightspots (5523267)

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WHY THE BAD
LADS HAVE
MORE TO OFFER

WEDNESDAY MAY 8 1996

Cross-code challenge kicks off

Bath's control put to test in another league

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

CURIO or freak show? Whichever, the first of the cross-code challenge matches between Wigan and Bath, at Maine Road tonight, will address half the argument about sport's great untested rivalry without really answering any questions. Under rugby league rules, Wigan should run riot, before the jamboree diverts to Twickenham, on May 25, and Bath come into their element.

Greater interest centres on the rugby union leg, for the simple reason that Wigan should give Bath more of a run for the £500,000 the matches will put into depleted coffers at either club, than Bath are capable of providing Wigan, without the benefit of any league experience. The scoreboard will be tested by the "home" side more than Manchester City managed in the football season.

In a recent mock league game, Bath were beaten six tries to four by the South Wales reserve XIII. After only their fifth league training session yesterday, Brian Ashton, Bath's coach, was candid in

his assessment. "The players have found adapting far more difficult than they realised," he said. "There have been problems at the play-the-ball, marking up, and getting back the ten metres after each tackle. But where we've struggled most is the defensive alignment."

While some union pundits worry for Wigan's safety in the scrums, the fear of a hopeless mismatch in the first encounter is a genuine one. All the

Richmond stars sign — 46

one-sided contest will prove it that the twin, for all the talk of a coming together, cannot meet on such unequal terms. Neither will Twickenham be a level playing field, when Wigan grapple with the complexities of ruck, maul and lineout.

The exercise, therefore, rests on pride, the pluck of both clubs in rising to very different challenges, and the historical context of two matches, unthinkable before last August, when rugby union began its

difficult embrace of professionalism.

Tonight, at least, there is the chance to see what a consummate professional outfit can do, with a leading bookmaker refusing to offer a price on Wigan winning.

This evening also establishes new ground, as the only previous league v union matches, in 1943 and 1944, were played under union laws. The league sides won on both occasions.

Now, 100 years of feuding since league's breakaway in 1895 have given way to free movement between the codes — a development reinforced yesterday by Richmond's capture of Scott Quinnell and Jim Fallon back from league.

In these heady, turbulent times, how long will it be before union clubs with money to spend can tempt established league players? Gary Connolly, at Wigan, continues to be a target and Bath and Orrell are looking at Bobbie Goulding, of St Helens. As the bridgehead between the codes continues to build, what price one game, for global television consumption, in the next decade?

Yet, for all that the games are supposedly coming together and they have incorporated league tactics this season, Bath have found it utterly alien. After the effort of their Courage Clubs Championship and Pilkington Cup triumphs, tonight will provide a severe test of stamina.

Wigan, Bath have opted for pace, and Andy Robinson, who made 11 tackles in the Cup final last Saturday, will be expected to make three times that number at loose forward. Sanders is a scrum half turned hooker for the night, while Callard, normally full back, has the unenviable task of opposing Shaun Edwards at scrum half. "It's because he's the same sort of fiery individual," Ashton said, mischievously.

Edwards plays to win no matter how indifferent the opposition. He will ask no favours of Brian Campsall, refereeing at Twickenham, nor expect Russell Smith to show any leniency to Bath tonight. "If they can't make the ten metres, you can't let them off because it's a special game," he said. "If we go the wrong side of the ruck in the union game, I'd expect us to get penalised."

While Bath are working out answers to the wizardry of Paul, the power of the converted Tuigamala and speed of Jason Robinson, Offiah and Connolly, the question of better code will still remain one of personal preference, on a rare night when both meet as one.

WIGAN: K. Radcliffe, J. Robinson, V. Tuigamala, G. Connolly, S. Sanders, S. Edwards, N. Cornwell, M. Hall, T. O'Connor, S. Quinnell, A. Farrell, S. Substitutes: R. Smith, S. Haughton, R. Smith, C. Murdoch, A. Johnson.

BATH: A. Lumsden, J. Selpholme, F. Walters, P. de Girolamo (captain), A. Adenayo, M. Call, J. Callard, K. Yates, I. Sanders, A. Vardell, N. Lewis, S. Givoni, A. Robinson, S. Substitutes: R. Bullock, N. Redman, N. McCarthy, E. Pearce. Referee: R. Smith (Cardiff).



Making strides: Pollock, who took five Derbyshire wickets, provided further evidence of his potential yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Pollock puts Malcolm in the shade

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

EDGBASTON (Derbyshire won toss): Warwickshire (2pts) beat Derbyshire by eight wickets

DEVON MALCOLM, gored by the words of Raymond Illingworth, the England chairman of selectors, in South Africa last winter, endured another public humiliation in this Benson and Hedges Cup match yesterday. On a day when Shaun Pollock, the 22-year-old Warwickshire all-rounder, took five wickets, the Derbyshire fast bowler conceded 54 runs in five overs and appeared a soul in torment. The batting of Knight and Neil Smith took the form of bear-baiting and Malcolm could not even raise a growl.

He was never going to

figure in the selectors' thoughts before the first Test against India, to be played on this ground next month, but his wretched winter has not sapped him of all self-respect. If, out of curiosity, Illingworth wants to know how he is bowling, then David Graveney, a member of the selection panel, can supply first-hand evidence, though there were times yesterday when he might have wanted to look the other way.

Knight took three boundaries from Malcolm's first over. By the time he had bowled two more, Malcolm had conceded 29 runs and Jones thought it was time he took a blow in the outfield. When he returned, Knight pulled him twice for four and drove another couple of boundaries through cover. In the next over, he pulled a six

off the front foot, the most insulting stroke to offer a fast bowler, even on a pitch of little pace.

Malcolm went on to hold the catch when Knight, on 91, hit a steeping drive to mid-on.

Lancashire qualify — 45
Kent stay unbeaten — 45

but it was no real compensation. The batsmen had taken 42 runs off him in boundaries and reduced him to the rank of trundler. What does a captain say to his fastest bowler after such treatment? Malcolm cannot shed his years, and — as Illingworth knows, and publicly said in South Africa — he cannot absorb much that people tell him anyway.

When, after 15 overs, Jones could finally drop his fielders back, Warwickshire were 130 without loss and victory, which takes them through to the quarter-finals, was safely theirs. Before Smith was bowled, driving at Aldred, he and Knight had shared 162 runs, a record stand for any Warwickshire wicket in this competition.

Smith needed only 53 balls for his 90, hitting 13 boundaries. For this bright little contribution, and for his two wickets midway through the Derbyshire innings, he won the gold award, although Pollock had as good a claim.

EDGBASTON SCOREBOARD	
DERBYSHIRE	WARWICKSHIRE
N J Knight c Pollock b Aldred 91	N M K Smith b Aldred 80
K J Barnett c Piper b Pollock 5	P A Smith not out 12
C J Adams c Piper b Pollock 1	W G Wharmby not out 11
J A Owen b N M K Smith 48	Extras (lb 2, w 6, nb 4) 11
C M Wells c Khan b Reeve 6	Total (2 wickets, 23.3 overs) 194
G M Delprat c sub b Pollock 20	Score after 15 overs: 130-0
K M Kilgallon b N M K Smith 2	T L Penney, "D A Reeve, S M Pollock, D R Brown, T J Piper, A F Giles and T A Munton did not bat.
D G Cork b Pollock 16	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-162, 2-187.
P A Griffith run out 3	BOWLING: Malcolm 5-0-54-0; Cork 4-0-22-0; Aldred 5-0-35-2; Jones 2-0-16-0; Wells 1-0-7-0; Griffith 4-0-42-0; Barnett 2-0-14-0.
P A Griffith not out 1	Unhappy: K E Palmer and R A White.
D E Malcolm not out 1	Gold award: N M K Smith
Extras (lb 2, w 6, nb 4) 11	
Total (48.4 overs) 193	
Score after 15 overs: 51-2	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-27, 3-132, 4-142, 5-144, 6-145, 7-174, 8-184, 9-189.	
BOWLING: Pollock 9-1-36-0; Brown 10-3-26-0; Giles 8-0-33-0; Munton 5-0-23-0; Reeve 5-1-24-2; N M K Smith 5-0-37-2.	

Fry's bring-and-buy closes down

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

BARRY FRY, king of football's wheeler-dealers, will no longer conduct business for Birmingham City. He is a lovely person and I'm sure he'll find another club soon and will do an excellent job, but we felt he had taken this club as far as he could."

Fry, 51, signed 61 players for Birmingham after moving from Southend United in December 1993. Juggling his squad with admirable dexterity, he led the club to the second-division championship in the 1994-95 season and also success in the Auto Windscreens Shield.

His lust for doing deals — Birmingham have used approaching 50 players this season — and chirpy, rent-a-quote character guaranteed that St Andrew's was never far away from the public consciousness. His often heated disagreements with Sullivan and Karen Brady, the club's managing director, also provided plenty of idle chit-chat for the sporting gossip columns.

However, after rising to third place in the first division on Boxing Day, Birmingham slid into free-fall and even Fry's renowned business acumen and powers of motivation appeared unable to stop the rot. Selling Steve Claridge, the popular striker, and Liam Daish, the central defender,

but our results over the past six months have been poor and our recent form has been atrocious. He is a lovely person and I'm sure he'll find another club soon and will do an excellent job, but we felt he had taken this club as far as he could."

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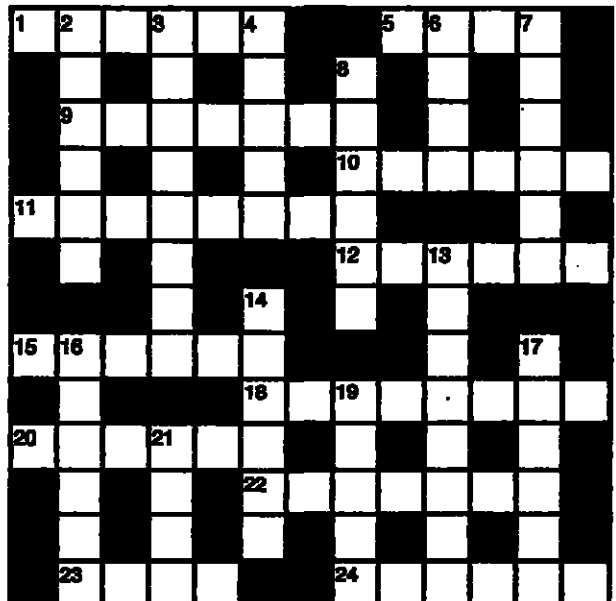
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Fry: wheeler-dealer

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 776

ACROSS

- Public speaker (6)
- Unfreeze (4)
- Present self at airport (5,2)
- Area ruled: field of activity (6)
- (Naive) philanthropist (2-6)
- Mesh with (6)
- Ruler with unlimited powers (8)
- Water-heater (6)
- Inference: Cortes's men's was wild (Keats) (7)
- Breakwater: burrowing animal (4)
- Covering for blade (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 775

ACROSS: 1 Populist 5 Bash 9 Out like a light 10 Coin 11 Matilda 13 Assist 15 Nauses 18 Grapple 20 Sump 23 Root and branch 24 Onyx 25 Transmitt

DOWN: 1 Poop 2 Patio 3 Lebniz 4 Steamy 6 Angelus 7 Hathaway 8 Star 12 Kangaroo 14 Shadowy 16 Also-ran 17 Render 19 Pest 21 Minin 22 Shut

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 771

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Midlands 5 Calm 9 Awful 10 Niagara 11 Macadam 12 Actor 13 Offenbach 18 Arvil 20 Impasse 22 Caption 23 Stand 24 Turk 25 Straddle

DOWN: 1 Miasma 2 De facto 3 Allied 4 Don't mention it 6 Aweil 7 Mesagre 8 Banana 14 Fulle 15 Husband 16 Mascot 17 Meddle 19 Viper 21 Pasta

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2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is A Shalrim, Puddington, London. All flights subject to availability.

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